

Lives and marriages wrecked by fake doctor's sex diagnoses

By TIM JONES

THE dangerous fantasy-world of Godwin Onubogu began to fall apart more than three years ago when a complaint was made to the Metropolitan Police Forensic Science Laboratory regarding the bona fides of a man posing as an expert in drink-drive cases.

Onubogu used the same bogus science to fool magistrates in courts throughout London, claiming that the accused drivers were victims of "aberrant biochemistry". But when officers from the Organised Crime Group, accompanied by a forensic scientist, visited his laboratory, they failed to find any equipment capable of carrying out blood, urine or alcohol tests. While the officers were searching his premises, a number of people called in to consult Onubogu whom they believed to be a practising and qualified doctor. The investigation was broadened. Officers soon discovered that Onubogu was a liar — and a man of staggering arrogance. In one faked reference, he wrote: "Godwin is an enigma whose competence we all admire and glorify."

THE BOGUS DOCTOR



In one faked reference he wrote: Godwin is an enigma whose competence we all admire and glorify.

patient was a man he would advise him to bring in his partner so he could subject her to an intimate check-up.

When confronted with his "diagnosis", couples would look accusingly at each other, wondering if their partner had been unfaithful. At least three marriages were destroyed but police believe the true number is much higher.

One police doctor who examined his records suggested the incidence of gonorrhoea in the area was so great that it should be reported to the World Health Organisation.

Louise Kamill, for the prosecution, said: "His experience is limited to half-truths and figments of his imagination. The consequences to his patients were disastrous as was the trauma." She said that any fears his patients may have had on entering his none-too-clean surgery were allayed by pictures of him in academic robes receiving degrees and the display of a university shield. He wore a white coat, carried a stethoscope and surrounded himself with medical equipment. There was an impressive array of books, supposedly written by him, and he awarded himself a string of letters after his name.

For his fake consultations and drugs, he demanded to be paid in cash. Most victims never complained because they were ashamed to be told they had a sexually transmitted disease and would do anything for a cure. Onubogu's only experience in the medical profession was when he worked as a junior technician on routine tasks at St Thomas' Hospital in London for a few months in 1968. He briefly worked in a laboratory helping the analyse the quality of Thames water. He falsely claimed to have been a Fellow of St Thomas' and boasted that his work was so acclaimed that a department had been set up for him at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.



Godwin Onubogu, who posed as a doctor and duped people into thinking that they had gonorrhoea. He was jailed for five years yesterday

Onubogu insisted he had a PhD, a bachelor of science degree, and a master's in science. He completed the fantasy by awarding himself membership of the Royal College of Pathologists. Thus armed, he set up his "Iketaim Clinical Laboratory" after being awarded a modest start-up grant by Wandsworth Enterprise Agency. Wandsworth council was alerted to his activities in 1992 when police contacted officials expressing concern that blood, urine and tissue samples were being stored in what they considered to be hazardous conditions. But attempts to close down his clinic failed.

Onubogu duped a Californian based university into giving him qualifications by sending them photocopies of research papers written by eminent doctors which he passed off as his own work. He also changed failed examination papers to show he had gained good passes and faked references. After gaining failing A levels in chemistry, physics and zoology, he altered the results so he was accepted as a student at London University. He failed his exams and was told to leave. He said he had graduated.

In his guise as an expert witness in court cases, Onubogu, who claimed to be the managing director of a forensic laboratory, often used the same bogus report to help drink-drive motorists evade prosecution. Between 1990 and 1996 he charged 13 drivers up to £8,000 for "nonsense, rubbish and lies".

His letter states: "Because issues relating to the investigation remain confidential, I am sure that you will understand that for legal reasons I am unable to give you any further information. I am in close contact with the local education authority who are fully aware of the position. If parents have any worries or concerns please come and discuss them with me in the usual manner." He said he would write to parents again when the matter was resolved.

Teacher is suspended over claim of gagging pupils

By HELEN JOHNSTONE

A TEACHER has been suspended after allegedly using insulation tape to seal the mouths of primary school children who talked in class.

The allegations came to light when a parent complained that Jane Davies had used the tape to silence a boy at Weston Rhyn County Primary School. When pupils returned for the new term, the teacher was not at school and the head teacher confirmed yesterday that she would not be returning until the allegations had been investigated.

At least two alleged incidents, involving different children aged eight or nine at the end of last term, are believed to have been brought to the attention of police. Officers from West Mercia are working with education authority officials in conducting the investigation.

One nine-year-old pupil, who claims she was threatened with having her mouth taped, has claimed that up to seven pupils had suffered that fate. Miss Davies, believed to be in her thirties, yesterday refused to comment at her terraced cottage in the village, near Oswestry, Shropshire. The form teacher, who is thought to have been at the school for about two years, said she was not allowed to discuss the matter.

A letter has gone out from the school to the parents of all 100 pupils explaining the situation. Brian Bevan, the head, had originally only written to the parents of class six children but admitted that rumours had prompted him to write to all parents.

Another blow to tarnished image of the paid witness

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE bogus activities of Godwin Onubogu have dealt a fresh blow to the image of paid witnesses who play a key role in court rulings.

Onubogu claimed to be a scientific expert, one of the growing industry of expert witnesses whose members have been struggling with some success to rid the profession of its "hired gun" image and assert professional standards. But, despite efforts by bodies such as the Expert Witness Institute and the Academy of Expert Witnesses, in the eyes of the public the expert witness remains suspect.

Witnesses — paid or otherwise — still regularly come to grief in the courts. Mr Justice Phillips commented that an expert witness put forward by one side in an oil dispute, *Tevaco v Arco* in 1989, "tended to answer questions wildly, appearing to give expression to whatever thought entered his head".

Witnesses also came unstuck in the recent case against the *Evening Standard* brought by Alan Clark, the former Tory MP, over the newspaper's spoof diary, *Matthew Evans*, chairman of the *Faber & Faber*, and Donald Trefford, former Editor of *The Observer*, faltered under cross-examination despite their knowledge. The judge



Onubogu's surgery at Swan House, Balham, London

Mr Justice Lightman, caustically remarked: "Either the experts never seriously held the views expressed in forthright terms in their witness statements or, in the course of cross-examination, they experienced a revelation and conversion on a par with that of St Paul on the road to Damascus."

Money remains one problem tarnishing the image of the expert witness. The work can be lucrative: an expert can charge £200 an hour and £1,000 for a report. Catherine Bond, a founder of the Expert Witness Institute and a partner with Bond Solon, which

has trained more than 9,000 professional experts — solicitors, accountants, doctors and bankers — said: "The Onubogu case is just the sort of case which gives expert witnesses a bad name, though I hasten to say we did not actually train this man."

She said that the public impression of expert witnesses was still that, if a client paid for a specific opinion, they were entitled to have it. "But we do try and emphasise on all our courses that experts are there to give their opinion and, if they are biased or give a distorted opinion, the judge will see through it and they are

also likely to collapse under cross-examination, which won't do the client any good."

Lord Woolf, the Master of the Rolls, in his landmark report on civil justice was harsh in his criticisms of expert evidence and the way "experts take on the role of partisan advocates instead of neutral fact finders or opinion givers". He has called for greater use of the single and neutral court-appointed expert, rather than each side calling their own.

Since then, the Law Society has taken steps to improve the standing of experts and has published a directory of Expert Witnesses with 3,500 names, emphasising the importance to litigants of choosing an independent expert.

But witnesses themselves remain ambivalent about what they should say in court. A survey by Bond Solon in October 1997 of some 500 expert witnesses found that two thirds were asked to change their opinion in some way by the solicitor, although some of these changes were merely factual.

And nearly one third of the witnesses did make the changes, a worrying finding in light of the Government's expansion of "no win, no fee" work. Ms Solon says. In such case, they will be paid only if they win a case. Will this, she says, be a fresh incentive for experts to tailor their opinions?

What should you expect from a Virgin Pension?

3:10 save...
want...
You can...
We will...
Pension...

Expect more from a Virgin Personal Pension.



Virgin Direct Personal Financial Service Ltd is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority. The price of units and any income from them can go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount you invest. The basis of tax may change and the tax benefit depends on personal circumstances. For your security all calls are recorded and randomly monitored.

Woman killed in daylight attack

By HELEN JOHNSTONE

A YOUNG bank clerk stabbed to death less than 50 yards from her home in broad daylight as she went to catch a bus to work may have been the victim of a robbery that went wrong.

Ruksana Begum, 21, had just left her home in Handsworth, Birmingham, and was walking down an alley when she was attacked at 8.30am. She staggered to the nearby street where she collapsed in the arms of a passer-by. She was pronounced dead on arrival at Birmingham's City Hospital.

Detective Superintendent Malcolm Ross of West Midlands Police, who is leading the murder inquiry, said that a post-mortem examination found Miss

Begum had died from multiple stab wounds. He said the motive for the attack on Miss Begum, who worked at a branch of the Trustee Savings Bank, remained a mystery, but her handbag had not been taken.

DS Ross said the killing may have been the result of a robbery that went wrong. "There is no reason at this stage to think that there is anything more to it than that. This seems to be a senseless killing of a very respectable girl."

Friends of Miss Begum said she had been troubled by a man who had become infatuated with her and was believed to have made romantic advances. She was in the process of having an arranged

marriage according to Bangladeshi custom and her family had attempted to protect her from the man's threatening behaviour.

Police yesterday made house-to-house inquiries and scenes of crime officers conducted a search of the area. One resident described seeing Miss Begum stumbling from the alley holding her stomach with blood on her hands.

A spokesman for the TSB said: "The overall emotion is one of bewilderment and shock. Her colleagues are deeply upset. She was an extremely likeable and valued member of staff and will be greatly missed by everybody who worked with her and knew her."

Patten questions wisdom of Tory ballot on Europe

Philip Webster on a call for honourable compromise

CHRIS PATTEN yesterday effectively ruled out serving in William Hague's Shadow Cabinet because of his policy on the European single currency.

The former chairman of the Conservative Party, who has shown interest in returning to the Commons, said that he disagreed with Mr Hague's stance of discounting British membership for this Parliament and the next even though he had "considerable reservations" about the euro. He said that he would vote against Mr Hague's line in the ballot of party members announced by the Tory leader on Monday.

Lord Hurd of Westwell, the former Foreign Secretary, also emerged last night as a strong opponent of Mr Hague's tactics. He let it be known at Westminster that he regarded the ballot as "ill-conceived" and "counterproductive". He has told friends that he will not take part in the ballot, which he thinks will exacerbate Tory divisions.

Mr Patten was asked on *The World at One* whether, if he was in the Shadow Cabinet, he would have to subscribe to Mr Hague's line. Asked whether he would do so, he said: "No. I do not agree with it." He was the latest senior Tory figure to suggest that Mr Hague's surprise move before the annual conference would be unlikely to stop the continuing disputes within the party.

However, Mr Hague has won widespread backing across the party for his decision to call a ballot, with John Major and Lord Lamont of Lerwick, the former Chancel-

lor, supporting his idea. Conservative Central Office reported that local associations were being "inundated" with inquiries from people wishing to join the party so that they could vote, or seeking to renew their membership. People have to be members for three months to qualify to vote.

At a Shadow Cabinet strategy session in Buckinghamshire, Mr Hague urged front-benchers to work hard to secure a clear majority "to give the party the certainty it craves."

The Shadow Cabinet gave unanimous backing to Mr Hague. In a statement it said that "each one of us will spend the coming weeks travelling round the country, campaigning alongside William Hague for a 'yes' vote in the ballot."

Mr Hague today begins a whistle-stop tour to sell his policy. He will speak in London today and move on over the next three weeks to all parts of Britain. There are expected to be at least 100

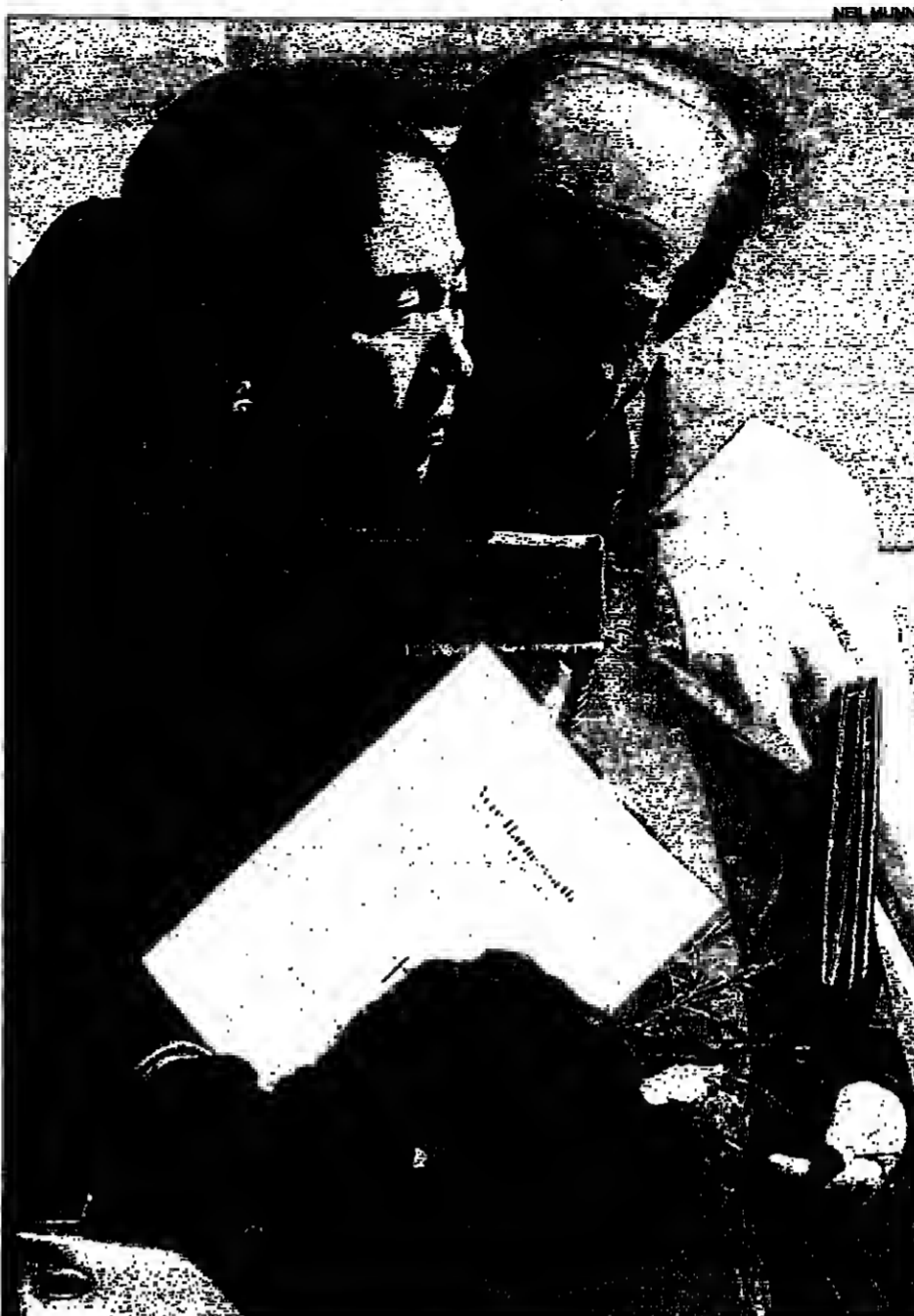
events organised to support his policy.

Yesterday he said: "Nobody should take the next election for granted. And the best way for the Conservative Party to set about winning the next election is to sort out this problem that has dogged us for years, to confront it, to deal with it and to move on."

Mr Major, whose own leadership was blighted by infighting on Europe, supported Mr Hague's decision and urged everyone in the party to abide by the outcome. "The Conservative Party must ensure its voice is heard against a Government that is now making serious mistakes," he said. "This means European policy must be settled and accepted. We cannot afford a continuation of the disputes that crippled us in the last Parliament."

Lord Lamont said: "William Hague's decision to hold a party referendum on the single currency is brave and bold. He will surely get support from the overwhelming majority of party members. This should settle the issue once and for all."

Mr Patten said everyone shared Mr Hague's desire to end divisions. He added: "The vote will go William's way but I don't think the debate is over. I would much prefer us to have tried to find an honourable compromise which would have put off any final decision and let the party fight, if it came to that, on different sides of a referendum while being totally united in a general election to get rid of the Blair Government."



Canon John Oates comforting the Dowager Lady Rothermere at yesterday's funeral

Son's moving tribute to Lord Rothermere

By Raymond Snoddy, Media Editor

THE successor to the title of Viscount Rothermere told mourners at his father's funeral yesterday that his death had been "the loss of a voice within us".

Jonathan Harnsworth, the 4th Viscount, said: "What a terrible and sad loss it is to lose a father. What a father he was, not only to us, but to his newspapers. The essence of paternalism: kind but firm, wise and generous."

"I have lost my best friend and mentor. But I will have my memories and his grandchildren to remember him by."

Lord Rothermere said that his father loved the gossip of journalists and the Machiavellian games of Fleet Street, and also spoke about his father's "complex, fiery and passionate" love for his mother and his "gentle and strong" love for his widow, Maiko, the Korean former model who became his second wife.

Lord Rothermere said that his father loved the gossip of journalists and the Machiavellian games of Fleet Street, and also spoke about his father's "complex, fiery and passionate" love for his mother and his "gentle and strong" love for his widow, Maiko, the Korean former model who became his second wife.

Canon John Oates said that his father loved the gossip of journalists and the Machiavellian games of Fleet Street, and also spoke about his father's "complex, fiery and passionate" love for his mother and his "gentle and strong" love for his widow, Maiko, the Korean former model who became his second wife.

Canon John Oates said that his father loved the gossip of journalists and the Machiavellian games of Fleet Street, and also spoke about his father's "complex, fiery and passionate" love for his mother and his "gentle and strong" love for his widow, Maiko, the Korean former model who became his second wife.

Canon John Oates said that his father loved the gossip of journalists and the Machiavellian games of Fleet Street, and also spoke about his father's "complex, fiery and passionate" love for his mother and his "gentle and strong" love for his widow, Maiko, the Korean former model who became his second wife.

Canon John Oates said that his father loved the gossip of journalists and the Machiavellian games of Fleet Street, and also spoke about his father's "complex, fiery and passionate" love for his mother and his "gentle and strong" love for his widow, Maiko, the Korean former model who became his second wife.

Canon John Oates said that his father loved the gossip of journalists and the Machiavellian games of Fleet Street, and also spoke about his father's "complex, fiery and passionate" love for his mother and his "gentle and strong" love for his widow, Maiko, the Korean former model who became his second wife.



Patten: he vowed to vote against Mr Hague's line

Shepherds may hold genetic clue to Parkinson's disease

By Ian Murray, Medical Correspondent

RESEARCHERS are trying to trace descendants of a 17th-century family of shepherds who may have inherited a gene that makes them prone to develop Parkinson's disease.

Over the past two years a team at the Institute of Neurology in London, including four neurogeneticists and two genealogists has tracked down three generations who are suffering from the disease. Although the earliest records of the family have been found in Lincolnshire, the team has traced other members in Leicestershire, Essex and Stoke-on-Trent, a number of

whom suffer from the neurological disorder.

"It is rare for two or more members of the same family to have the disease so it is very helpful to find several who come from the same one," said Naheed Khan, one of the research team. She has placed an advertisement in a Lincolnshire newspaper asking for anyone with a family history of the disease to get in touch with the institute.

"The family we have identified is not responsible for Parkinson's disease, but by identifying descendants we will be able to get a better

understanding of it," she said. She said that the disease was caused by environmental and genetic factors. While considerable work had been done on the environmental causes there had not been much research on the genetic aspects.

"We feel we are close to a conclusion, but we need more people to come forward to be tested. Our appeal for help is to trace more members of this family and other families which have a history of the disease," Dr Khan said.

The Parkinson's Disease Society is sponsoring the research with a £200,000 grant.

Personal loan rates from 10.1% APR.

Call Direct Line.

- Why pay more for a personal loan when as the table shows, you can get a low rate from us?
- You'll have fixed, low monthly payments throughout the term of the loan.
- No arrangement fee or complicated paper work.
- No security or deposit required.
- Call now for an instant decision on loans from £1,000 to £25,000.

LENDER	AMOUNT OF LOAN	APR	60 MONTHLY PAYMENTS	TOTAL PAYABLE
DIRECT LINE	£5,000	10.1%	£102.44	£6,146.40
	£10,000	10.1%	£202.86	£12,285.60
	£15,000	10.1%	£303.28	£18,424.80
BARCLAYS	£5,000	12.9%	£108.27	£6,496.20
	£10,000	12.9%	£216.54	£12,992.40
	£15,000	12.9%	£324.81	£19,488.60
LLOYDS	£5,000	12.9%	£108.27	£6,496.20
	£10,000	12.9%	£216.54	£12,992.40
	£15,000	12.9%	£324.81	£19,488.60
ABBEY NATIONAL	£5,000	12.4%	£104.76	£6,285.60
	£10,000	12.4%	£209.52	£12,571.20
	£15,000	12.4%	£314.28	£18,856.80



0181 680 9966 LONDON
0161 831 9966 MANCHESTER
0141 248 9966 GLASGOW

CALL ANYTIME 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm Saturday.
 Please quote ref. NTT18
 www.directline.co.uk/loans
 Direct Line Financial Services Limited, 250 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow, G2 5SH.

Dixons Sale

STARTS THIS WEEK

SAVE UP TO £150 ON TOP BRAND CAMCORDERS

PRICE CHECK

PRICE - WE CAN'T BE BEATEN
 Every week, Dixons Price Check compares hundreds of prices in the national press, so that you KNOW you can't buy better!

LOWEST EVER PRICE

Canon UC-V10 HI-8 CAMCORDER WITH 22x OPTICAL ZOOM

- 6 programme auto-exposure modes
- Optical image stabiliser
- Built-in still controller

Was £749.99

12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

£699.99 SALE PRICE

SAVE £50

DIGITAL VIDEO CAMERAS SAVE UP TO £450

JVC GR-DVX DIGITAL VIDEO CAMERA WITH 100x DIGITAL ZOOM

- 2.5" LCD screen
- Digital image stabiliser

Was £1699.99

£1149.99 NEW LOWEST PRICE

SAVE £450

CAMCORDERS SAVE UP TO £150

HITACHI VM2500 Hi-8CAMCORDER WITH 24x POWER ZOOM

- 0.25" low light capability
- 24x optical zoom

Was £499.99

£379.99 SAVE £20

SONY TR41 Hi-8CAMCORDER WITH 22x OPTICAL ZOOM

- 0.25" low light capability
- 22x optical zoom

Was £499.99

£399.99 SAVE £100

NEW SONY TR24 Hi-8CAMCORDER WITH 16x OPTICAL ZOOM

- 24x optical zoom
- 2" LCD monitor
- 24x optical zoom

Was £1499.99

£1499.99 NEW

NEW PANASONIC DA1 DIGITAL VIDEO CAMERA WITH 77x OPTICAL ZOOM

- 24x optical zoom
- 2.5" LCD screen

Was £1299.99

£1299.99 NEW

JVC DV170 DIGITAL VIDEO CAMERA WITH 70x OPTICAL ZOOM

- 24x optical zoom
- 2.5" LCD screen

Was £849.99

£849.99 NEW

HURRY! GREAT SAVINGS ON CLEARANCE CAMCORDERS

SAMSUNG VP600 Hi-8CAMCORDER WITH 22x POWER ZOOM

Was £399.99

£329.99 SAVE £70

Canon UC440 Hi-8CAMCORDER WITH 22x OPTICAL ZOOM

Was £499.99

£499.99 SAVE £50

SONY TR24 Hi-8CAMCORDER WITH 16x OPTICAL ZOOM

Was £549.99

£549.99 SAVE £100

SHARP VJ1770 Hi-8CAMCORDER WITH 20x DIGITAL ZOOM

Was £569.99

£569.99 SAVE £30

MANY MORE CLEARANCE LINES IN-STORE NOW!
 CHECK YOUR LOCAL BRANCH FOR AVAILABILITY

New Technology

SONY RV1 CAMCORDER

£549.99 NEW

World's Smallest Camcorder

PRICE - WE CAN'T BE BEATEN
 Every week, Dixons Price Check compares hundreds of prices in the national press, so that you KNOW you can't buy better!

Dixons

There's a Great Deal going on

of Slim pro
 Good
 make
 women
 come
 We stop...
 nothing...
 give you...
 best price...
 SWIFTS

Pupils hit the beat in a virtual crime city

By Russell Jenkins

CHILDREN can now learn about youth crime and good citizenship on the mean streets of a virtual reality city rife with drug use, joyriding and theft. Teenagers will find out how to avoid a mugging and solve crimes, and what it is like for police officers to face public order offences, from the safety of their computer seats.

Greater Manchester Police yesterday unveiled a virtual reality computer package designed to enable young people to experience the threat of real-life crime and learn the consequences of their actions.

The interactive package, VR Crime Conquest, is being distributed to secondary schools in Manchester and is likely to become a part of the curriculum for 12 and 13-year-olds around Britain. Interest is also growing in the US and Europe.

Pupils step into Virtual Reality City, where they come face-to-face with several hazardous situations. They can be asked to react in a number of roles, including those of a witness and a police officer. Moving through the city, they can make arrests or summon help. They make their own judgments on how to deal with a problem and learn the consequences.

In one program, *Trouble with Youths*, they are ordered to Birch Avenue, where a public disorder has been reported. When they arrive, they find a group of youths openly smoking cannabis. The player has five choices and a friendly talking-to is not the right answer. In another, the player sees a joyrider - called a "grief rider" in the program - knock down a pedestrian. Most players knock on the nearest door to find the house empty, then try the vandalised public telephone. Professor

Robert Stone, the commercial director of Virtual Presence, the company which developed the software, said a common reaction at that point was to panic.

"They say they have had enough of this: 'I have done my best, I'm going home' and so they leg it, leaving the injured man with his right leg twitching, and blood going down the drain," he said.

Other programs deal with arson, shoplifting and how to stay safe on the way home from the disco. Pre-launch trials were staged at Sale Grammar School. Jennifer Connelly, the head teacher, said that the school was now looking to make it a permanent part of the syllabus for Year 8 pupils.

"Youngsters love computers and I suppose their initial reaction was that this was going to be some sort of game. Then they realise there is a strong educational element," she said. "They find themselves in situations where they have to make decisions that can be difficult or distressing. It allows them to make the decision and find out what the consequences will be."

Kate Hoey, a Home Office Under-Secretary of State, said: "It is vital that we use whatever tools are available in order to educate our young people in what are the best ways of dealing with challenging and difficult situations. What better than allowing them to learn in the safety of their homes or classrooms?"

David Wilmore, the GMP Chief Constable, said the programme grew from an idea based on the children's television programme *The Crystal Maze*. The next generation of the CD-Rom is being developed to incorporate the Crime and Disorder Act.



The ghost shirt on display in Glasgow. It was brought to the city by Buffalo Bill

Sioux shirt to be tested for massacre blood

By Gillian Harris
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

FORENSIC scientists are to test a blood-stained shirt ripped from the back of a fallen Indian warrior during the Massacre of Wounded Knee in South Dakota more than a century ago to decide its final resting place.

The shirt, worn by a member of a Sioux religious cult, was brought to Glasgow by Buffalo Bill Cody's Wild West travelling show in 1891, a year after the massacre. It was handed over to Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum with other Indian artefacts the following year.

But now councillors in Glasgow must decide whether or not to repatriate the "ghost shirt" at the request of the Lakota Sioux Indians who regard it as a sacred relic. At a meeting of Glasgow City Council's arts and culture committee yesterday, councillors voted to postpone their decision until after forensic tests have been carried out and the public has been given an opportunity to express its views. If the ghost shirt is sent back to America, it will be one of the most high-profile historic objects to leave a British



Buffalo Bill in action at Wounded Knee

museum, Elizabeth Cameron, the convener of the arts and culture committee, said: "You can't rush into something like this. It is the first time it has been done and we shall proceed with caution."

Indian warriors believed the eagles and buffalo embroidered on the sleeves of ghost shirts shielded them from enemy bullets. But the ghost shirts offered little protection when soldiers from the 7th Cavalry opened fire on the defenceless Sioux at Wounded Knee Creek in December 1890.

More than 200 Indians were slaughtered in the final battle between white soldiers

and native Indians. Afterwards America was deemed safe for settlement. But the spot where the warriors, including the Indian chief Crazy Horse, died became a sacred site.

The shirt was spotted five years ago in the Kelvingrove gallery by John Earl, an American tourist of Cherokee descent, who reported his find to the Wounded Knee Survivors' Association, a group which campaigns for the rights of Sioux Indians. Its members wrote to Julian Spalding, then director of Glasgow Museums, asking for the shirt to be returned. When Mr Spalding refused, the survivors appealed to Glasgow City Council who insisted that councillors would make the final decision.

Yesterday Mark O'Neill, the head of curatorial services at Glasgow Museums, said a forensic examination would show where the blood on the shirt came from. According to Sioux legend, the blood is that of an Indian warrior but Mr O'Neill said: "After the massacre there was a huge souvenir hunt and some of the shirts had chicken blood put on them."

Boyfriend 'gave model fatal drug injection'

A TELEVISION actress and former Page Three model died after her boyfriend gave her a fatal injection of heroin, the Old Bailey heard yesterday (Stewart Tendler writes).

Debbie Linden, 36, had modelled and acted in television commercials and sitcoms. She had also become



Linden: abused drugs

an alcoholic and used drugs, but could not inject them herself. She died last October at the home of Russell Ainsworth, her boyfriend, minutes after he was seen by her brother Neil to give her an injection. After she became unconscious her breathing stopped and she was taken to hospital. Her life-support machine later switched off.

Ainsworth, 27, from Kingston, Surrey, pleaded not guilty to manslaughter and supplying a controlled drug, Sallie Bennett-Jenkins, for the prosecution, said that Ainsworth had divided the heroin into two portions and tied a tourniquet to Miss Linden's arm. Almost immediately she started to collapse. Ainsworth denied he had given her the injection.

The trial continues.



Why not sit up here?

If most side impacts happen here

- 13 CMS ABOVE GROUND A unique sandwich floor cleverly concealing fuel tank, battery and exhaust system
- 25 CMS ABOVE GROUND Average seat height in ordinary cars also common point of impact
- 60 CMS ABOVE GROUND Mercedes A-class passengers safely seated



A-class

Daimler-Benz has developed the first-ever fuel cell car to use methanol as the fuel. Based on the Mercedes A-class, the revolutionary new vehicle represents a decisive breakthrough in the quest to develop a drive system with extremely low emissions.

The car, known as NECAR3 (New Electric Car), fills up with liquid methanol. With the aid of a reformer system located in the rear of the vehicle, the methanol is converted on-line into hydrogen through water-vapour reformation. The hydrogen gas is then fed into the fuel cells where it is combined with atmospheric oxygen - but without combustion - to directly produce electrical energy used to power the vehicle.

Previous fuel cell systems could only operate in conjunction with bulky hydrogen tanks for fuel storage. With NECAR3, the entire process is much more direct: press the accelerator pedal and an astonishing 90 percent of the system's power is available in just two seconds. In terms of driving dynamics, this puts fuel cell vehicles using methanol on a par with conventional petrol or diesel-

powered cars.

Dispensing with the hydrogen tanks not only reduces vehicle weight, but it also greatly improves the everyday practicality of the new vehicle: petrol stations can theoretically handle methanol, which doesn't require special safety measures, nearly as easily as petrol or diesel. What's more, NECAR3 has a range of some 250 miles on a tank of 8.7 gallons of methanol - similar to conventional vehicles.

Daimler-Benz decided to opt for methanol because it is the most suitable fuel for hydrogen generation. Although petrol and diesel were also considered, the efficiency levels of these fuels would have been lower. For the introductory phase of fuel-cell powered vehicles at least, engineers are considering the possibility of a multi-fuel concept which, as the name suggests, would permit the use of different types of fuel until methanol is widely available.

The drive system of NECAR3 is virtually emission-free. Neither nitrogen oxides nor soot particles are created during conversion of methanol to hydrogen or in the subsequent

generation of electrical energy. And thanks to the extreme efficiency of the fuel cells, carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions are substantially below those of conventional cars.

With the advent of onboard hydrogen generation, a crucial step has been taken towards developing the environmentally friendly fuel cell technology that could eventually power vehicles of the future. An equally important milestone on the road to this lofty goal is the incorporation of the entire system into the 3.57 m long A-class. Once again, the innovative double-floor sandwich concept employed in the A-class has proved its worth, allowing the complete installation of the fuel cells and several auxiliary units underneath the passenger cell.

The methanol fuel tank, reformer and control system are located in the rear of the car.

The methanol reformer technology in NECAR3 has benefited from a wide range of technological advances at Daimler-Benz. Not only has the system been made smaller and more efficient, but the performance and dynamic response of the reformation

process have also been improved. The result is a compact unit of some 18 inches in height. Located in the rear of the A-class, the reformer directly injects hydrogen into the fuel cells. Hydrogen production occurs at a temperature of 280° centigrade: methanol and water vaporize to give hydrogen (H2), carbon dioxide (CO2), and carbon monoxide (CO).

The hydrogen protons travel through the polymer membrane while the electrons travel through an external circuit to arrive at the positive electrode. There, the oxygen, hydrogen protons and electrons combine to form water. An electric motor attached to the external circuit is then used to drive the vehicle.

Fuel cell cars represent one facet of the wealth of research and development being carried out by Daimler-Benz into the way that cars and other forms of transport can be improved for the future. If these advances continue with the same speed as they do currently, we could be driving fuel cell cars by 2004. For more information, contact the Mercedes-Benz website at www.mercedes-benz.co.uk

MERCEDES A-CLASS FROM £16,490 ON THE ROAD (INCLUDING V.A.T. DELIVERY, 12 MONTHS ROAD FUND LICENCE, NUMBER PLATES, FIRST REGISTRATION TAX AND A FULL TANK OF FUEL). CAD FEATURED £160 AVAILABLE FROM £16,990 ON THE ROAD. ALL PRICES CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. www.mercedes-benz.co.uk

Long-dis...
surrend...
... de Bruxelles...
... kept th...
... blisters at bay...
Here's £25
towards setting
yourself free
from expensive
home insurance.

013 292 7194

DIRECT LINE

صكزا من الأهل

Long-distance soldiers surrender to the rain

Simon de Bruxelles on an embarrassing end to an army march for charity

SIX soldiers who set out to walk from John o'Groat's to Land's End have abandoned their long march before reaching the Scottish border. They threw in the towel after three days with muscle strains within a couple of hundred miles of the start of the walk.

The organiser, a sergeant major in the Royal Logistic Corps, yesterday blamed rain and slippery roads for turning his troops into the walking wounded. The soldiers, who had been hoping to raise hundreds of pounds for charity, were taking it in turns to walk in combat gear for two hours while their colleagues followed behind in a van.

When the team posed confidently for a photograph at start of the non-stop charity walk, they knew that Britain's longest route had been completed on stilt, in wheelchairs and on a motorised lavatory. Even Jimmy Savile had done it. They set off at a breezy six



Army boots have Goretex lining and air-cushioned soles

miles an hour with high hopes of reaching Land's End, 873 miles away by the most direct route, in eight days. Just two days into the march, however, two of the soldiers suffered hamstring injuries and a third pulled a muscle in his thigh. The remaining three tried to continue the walk but eventually decided they were beaten

by the time they reached Perth, 240 miles after the start of the walk.

Sergeant Major Paul Woods, who planned the walk to raise money for Tewkesbury Hospital and the Crohn's in Childhood Research Appeal, said: "The rain was horrendous. We were all slipping and that is how people

ended up with torn muscles and things.

"We planned to march in shifts of two hours on and four hours off, but with only three of us walking, it was just too much. By the time we had walked 240 miles, we knew we were just not going to make it."

"We all put a lot of work into preparing, and it was a real shame, but we just have to put it behind us and try again when everyone has recovered from their injuries."

"It will probably be next year now before we can do anything."

The soldiers are all based at the Army's central vehicle depot at Ashchurch near Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire. Last night, they were preparing to beat the retreat on the parade ground and were unavailable for comment.

Captain Rosie Stone, an Army spokeswoman, said: "There are two sides to every story. They were accompanied by an Army medic who advised them if they continued



Lieutenant Corporal Arwyn Efans, Sergeant Major Paul Woods, Sergeant Ian Mellor and Staff Sergeant Phil Moran

walking at the same pace, they would all end up injured. They were due to take part in a major exercise for which it was vital they were fit and military duties had to come first."

If there is one thing the soldiers cannot blame their injuries on, it is the standard-

issue British Army boot. The traditional 'ammo' boot with hobnails and inch-thick leather soles has been replaced everywhere but on the parade ground by waterproof Goretex linings, speed-lacing and air-cushioned soles.

The Ministry of Defence said: "The traditional army

boot has been transformed over the past 15 years and can now compete with any civilian boot. 'Ammo' boots are still useful for drill because they make a lot of noise and it is easy to keep in step. Thick leather soles also have their own cushioning effect. But the army is aware that many

young people these days grow up in trainers and their feet just are not used to properly made leather shoes, let alone boots.

"That is why during basic training, we now make a gradual transition from trainers to boots to try to cut the risk of muscle injuries."

Hessian kept the blisters at bay

By HANNAH BETTS AND PETER FOSTER

AN ARMY may march on its stomach but walkers who attempt the 873-mile trek from Land's End to John o'Groat's know that the first consideration must be their feet.

Those who have attempted the walk have found a variety of ways of keeping the blisters away. The hobbling soldiers of Ashchurch, who set out in standard issue black army boots, might have fared better if they had followed the example of Barbara Moore, the 1960s vegetarian campaigner who completed the walk at the age of 56. She wrapped her feet in hessian sackings tied with twine.

The former England cricketer Ian Botham, who has completed the walk seven times for charity, favoured the sports training shoe which minimises blisters but are best left outside overnight.

The sportswear manufacturer Nike recommends the latest hybrid shoe, a cross between a walking boot and a running shoe. Their top model costs about £80 but, according to Graham Anderson, the marketing manager, should last the distance.

The walk from John o'Groat's to Land's End is successfully completed by between 3,000-4,000 people every year. Had they survived the 873-mile trek the six sol-



Barbara Moore did the walk at age of 56

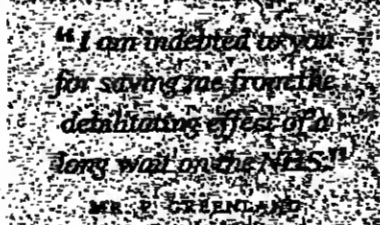
diers would have been inducted into the Hall of Fame which has been established at Land's End to honour finishers and tend to aching limbs.

As they return to face the ridicule of their regiment they may find it encouraging to know that the record for the fastest walk is held by a soldier. Warrant Officer Malcolm Barnish of the 19th Regiment, Royal Artillery, completed the course in only twelve days in 1986. He was eclipsed only by the holder of the running record - 10 days two hours - set by Briton Richard Brown in May 1995.

Long NHS hospital waiting lists seem to be a fact of life these days. There are currently over 1.2 million people waiting for treatment and many of those are having to spend weeks, months, even years with painful conditions - not knowing when their turn for treatment will come round.

How would you feel if you were one of those people? Would you still be able to work? If you had a family, how would they cope? It doesn't even have to be a serious illness - conditions such as varicose veins, torn ligaments and gall stones are all very painful to live with - yet operations for these have some of the longest waiting lists of all.

The sad thing is that so many people could easily have avoided long



waiting lists - if they had realised how affordable high quality private medical insurance can be, and how easy it is to arrange.

In fact, cover with PPP healthcare Starter Plan, one of our most popular plans, starts from as little as £13 per month.

You're covered for all new medical conditions from the very day you start your cover. And you could arrange everything over the phone.

PPP healthcare Starter Plan gives you a wide range of healthcare benefits, including immediate access to top quality private hospital treatment, whenever you need it, with eligible in-patient benefits paid in full.

Call us free, without obligation, and we'll give you a free quotation and full details of the plan that's right for you.

And when you decide to join, we'll give you £20 worth of Marks & Spencer vouchers with our compliments.



One FREE call gives you a FREE no-obligation quotation plus £20 worth of Marks & Spencer vouchers FREE when you take out a plan.

Comfort and privacy

With PPP healthcare, you can rest assured that should you need treatment, you'll enjoy the comfortable surroundings of a quality private hospital. You'll usually have the privacy of your own room and other facilities, like your own television and

Only PPP healthcare gives you all this...

£20 PER NIGHT CASH FREE as an NHS patient, up to £2,000.	✓
24-HOUR HEALTH INFORMATION LINE direct to qualified medical professionals, 365 days a year.	✓
NEARLY 60 YEARS' EXPERIENCE of providing quality healthcare.	✓
BILLS SETTLED DIRECT so you're not out of pocket.	✓
YOUR PERSONAL ADVISORY TEAM to help with any query or claim.	✓

en-suite bathroom - plus the convenience of being able to arrange your treatment to suit your own needs.

Providing healthcare services for nearly 60 years

A private healthcare company's track record will give you a good indication of the level of service you can expect from them. PPP healthcare has been a healthcare specialist for nearly 60 years.

Today we are one of the UK's largest healthcare providers,

giving protection and peace of mind to over 2 million members in the UK. Last year we paid out over £1.6 million in claims every working day.

our members regularly tell us.

Our commitment to caring is at the heart of our service

Should you become ill and need to take advantage of your private medical cover, you'll want to know you can count on the best possible service. That's why we allocate to you a Personal Advisory Team who will help you with your queries. They'll be happy to confirm with you exactly what you are covered for, so you have no anxieties about claiming. And they'll help you through the claims process from start to finish.

At PPP healthcare we even pay your eligible medical bills direct, so you don't have to pay and then claim back.

Call for your quotation now. No obligation. No medical examination.

Why not find out how affordable it can be to enjoy the peace of mind of top quality private healthcare?

Call us now for a free personal quotation - you'll be under no

pressure to take out a plan. We can even give you instant cover over the phone today, plus a 5% discount, if you

call and give your credit card number.

So call now, or complete and return the coupon.

Reply today for your no-obligation quotation and receive £20 worth of Marks & Spencer vouchers FREE when you take out a plan.

Call Free 0800 33 55 55

8am-8pm weekdays, 9am-1pm Saturdays. Calls may be recorded. £20 of vouchers per household only. Offer applies to new members only.

SEND FOR A FREE NO-OBLIGATION QUOTATION NOW TO: PPP healthcare, FREEPOST, PPP House, Upperpton Road, East Sussex BN21 1HR. No stamp is needed.

(Mr/Ms/Miss/Ma) Initials _____ Surname _____

Address _____ Postcode _____

Telephone No. (Day) _____ (Evening) _____

Date of Birth _____ (Important: we cannot give you a quotation without this date.)

Name of other adult to be included _____ Date of Birth _____

Number of children under 21 to be included _____

If you have a current healthcare policy, please give your renewal date _____

Occasionally offers from carefully selected companies may be made to you. If you would prefer not to receive these offers, please tick.

PPP healthcare there to support you

Im prize

Good sex may help women to conceive

stop anything to you the price

Here's £25 towards setting yourself free from expensive home insurance.



You don't have to keep your home insurance with your mortgage provider. With Direct Line, you could save yourself up to 30% on your current premium. And if your mortgage provider imposes a fee for switching to us, we'll even refund it, up to £25.

CALL 0113 292 7194 FOR LOW COST HOME INSURANCE 8am-8pm MON-FRI / 9am-5pm SAT Please quote ref: 318



The company may monitor telephone conversations with the aim of improving its service.

WIFTC

Disabled attack Labour review of rights law

By MARK HENDERSON

THE Government was accused last night of betraying the disabled and handing employers a licence to discriminate with a "piffling and pathetic" review of employment rights legislation.

Campaigners for the disabled said the decision by Margaret Hodge, the Disability Minister, to lower the threshold at which businesses must observe discrimination legislation from 20 employees to 15 was a "derisory" improvement that breached Labour's manifesto commitment to give full civil rights to disabled people.

Tom Clarke, Labour's disability spokesman in opposition, had attacked the Tories for including the threshold in the 1996 Disability Discrimination Act, and Mrs Hodge's predecessor Alan Howarth, promoted to Arts Minister in July's reshuffle, was widely believed to have accepted the case for lowering the threshold to two employees or abolishing it altogether.

Mrs Hodge's decision — her

first since her appointment — showed bad faith and effectively enshrined smaller employers' right to discriminate against the disabled, campaigners said. Some suggested that Mr Howarth had been moved from the brief because he was too sympathetic to their demands.

"This is a piffling and pathetic announcement which does almost nothing to help disabled people," said Rachel Hurst, chairwoman of Rights Now. "Labour were violently opposed to any kind of threshold in opposition, and leaving it in gives business a right to discriminate." Ms Hurst added that the Act would not compel businesses to employ disabled people where to do so would incur unreasonable expenses, a lift for example, even if the threshold were scrapped.

Sex and race discrimination legislation applies to all firms irrespective of size, and lowering the threshold to two would cost companies just £6.88 per employee, according to the Government's own figures.

James Strachan, chief executive of the Royal National Institute for Deaf People, said the "derisory" cut would exclude 95 per cent of employers from disability discrimination rules: "Despite the Government's fine words and promises, disabled people have once again been dealt a bitter blow in the fight against discrimination."

The Royal National Institute for the Blind said it was "deeply disappointed" that no action had been taken to tackle discrimination in small firms. "It can't be right that firms can actively discriminate against

disabled people when they can't do so on the grounds of race or gender," said a spokesman.

The row will also hit Government claims that planned cuts in disability benefits would be matched by greater employment rights and opportunities for disabled people who want to work.

Mark Oaten, the Liberal Democrat disability spokesman, said: "In her first act as disability minister Hodge has bodged this legislation and let companies off the hook at the expense of disabled people."

Mrs Hodge said the extension of the Act would bring another 45,000 employers and 750,000 employees under its umbrella. "It will ensure that disabled people working in these firms have their rights protected and promoted in the same way as disabled people employed in larger firms."



Baroness Jay sets out to show that the problems of women are on her shoulders. In her first public appearance since the Cabinet reshuffle made her Minister for Women — along with Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House of

Jay shoulders her new role

Lords — she was calling for more office responsibilities for women and trying out a new tension-relieving massager on her shoulders at the

opening of the Executive PA Show at the Business Design Centre in North London. Lady Jay called for personal assistants and

secretaries to be given clear career structures to enable them to progress to higher levels and be given more responsibility. Better training and support was needed to break down barriers and ease the career ladder, she said.



Hodge: her review was attacked as derisory

Ridings School education head forced to resign

By VICTORIA FLETCHER

THE head of the local education authority condemned after a breakdown of discipline at The Ridings School has been forced to resign after the Government threatened a takeover if he was not replaced.

Estelle Morris, the School Standards Minister, is believed personally to have demanded the removal of Ian Jennings, the Chief Education Officer at Calderdale council in West Yorkshire, as part of a wider purging of the troubled education department that will be implemented in the next few weeks.

The council has been dogged by problems with its education department in recent years. A series of inspections by Ofsted, the school standards watchdog, found it was repeatedly failing to provide adequate support for local schools, highlighted by the crisis at the Ridings School in Halifax in 1996.

A Government inspection branded the school "out of control" after a series of assaults and vandalism by pupils in 1996. The school was later forced to close for some days, after teachers refused to take lessons unless 60 known trouble-makers were expelled.

The Local Government Association had to intervene and provided an independent advisor, Simon Jenkin, who drew up radical plans to revive the authority. It is understood that

Mr Jenkin will now be asked to replace Mr Jennings as Chief Education Officer, to ensure the proposed changes are carried out effectively.

Yesterday a highly critical report by Mr Jenkin was given to Calderdale Education Committee, who will vote on Thursday on whether to accept its proposals for improvement.

In the report, Mr Jenkin suggests members of the department attend customer care training courses to learn how to be polite when dealing with schools, as well as the development of a team of school heads, governors and officers from the education department to develop strategies for local school improvement.

Councillor Bill Carpenter, leader of the Conservative Group in the council said: "I think that it is unlikely that Calderdale will reject any of the proposals in the report. I also think that because the reports' author was recommended by the Department and the LGA, that we should no longer fear a take-over by a Government hit squad. It is now not time to argue but time to improve."

An LGA spokesperson said yesterday: "There is still a mountain to climb for Calderdale in its bid to raise standards in education and great challenges still lie ahead."

SNP slipping back behind Labour

By GILLIAN HARRIS, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR has clawed back a slim lead over the Scottish National Party in the race for control of the Holyrood parliament, according to the latest opinion poll.

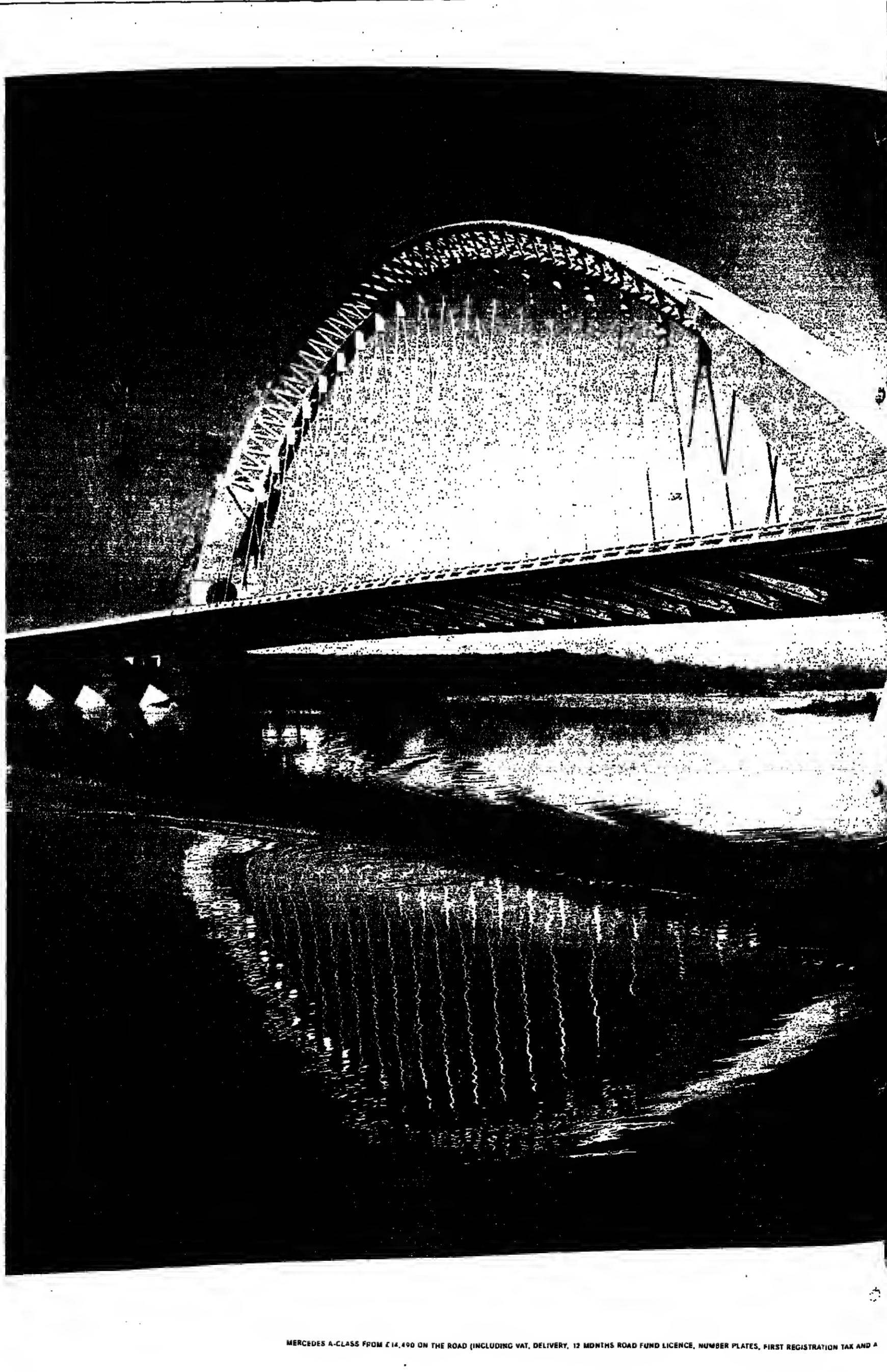
For the first time since Easter, Labour has overtaken the SNP in voting intentions for the constituency elections for the Scottish parliament. However, with Labour jumping one point to 41 per cent and the SNP slipping three to 38 per cent, neither party would hold an overall majority if the poll, conducted by System Three for the Glasgow-based Herald newspaper, was translated into seats.

Instead Labour, the biggest single party with 59 seats, would be forced to form a

coalition government with the Liberal Democrats. The pro-Union partners would then seek to block the SNP's demand for a referendum on independence during the parliament's first term.

The poll indicates a turn around in the SNP's fortunes following a 14 point surge during the summer. However in the proportional representation part of the vote for additional members, the SNP is still marginally ahead at 40 per cent, with Labour catching up on 39 per cent.

In both votes, the Tories stand at 11 per cent with the Liberal Democrats at 10 per cent for the constituency elections and 8 per cent for additional members.



MERCEDES A-CLASS FROM £14,490 ON THE ROAD (INCLUDING VAT, DELIVERY, 12 MONTHS ROAD FUND LICENCE, NUMBER PLATES, FIRST REGISTRATION TAX AND A

سكزا من الأهل

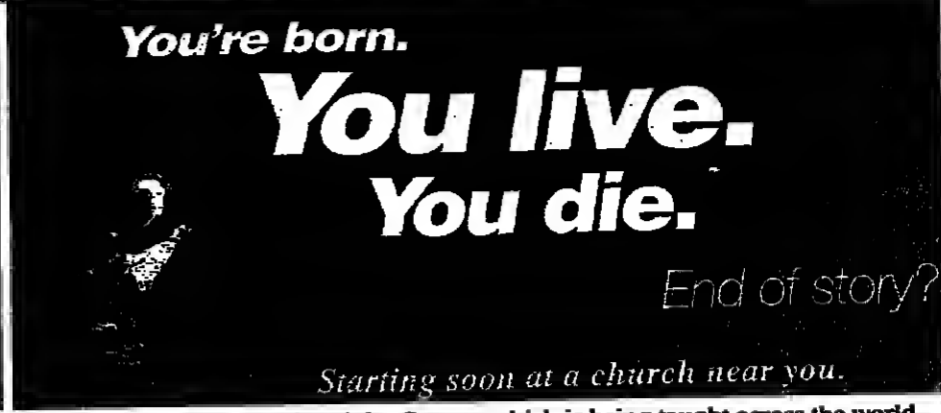
Church spreads word with £1m ad campaign

Dominic Kennedy on recordbreaking promotion for fundamentalist teachings

THE wealthiest parish church in Britain yesterday started the country's most expensive Christian advertising campaign — a £1 million poster and newspaper blitz that promotes the controversial Alpha movement.

The priests of Holy Trinity, Brompton, in West London, hope to win back Britain for Christ through a network of 4,000 churches that provide the Alpha Course, a ten-week introduction to Christianity using fundamentalist principles.

The churches aim to send every home in the country an invitation to the ecumenical course, which preaches the existence of the Devil and



Two of the posters that will appear on 5,500 sites around the country. They aim to create a brand image for the Alpha Course, which is being taught across the world

places an emphasis on healing, prophecy and miracles, including speaking in tongues.

The posters were conceived to promote the Alpha name and logo to improve recognition and interest, rather than selling a specific message.

One poster states: "9 to 5 for the next 30 years. Surely there's more to life?" The Alpha movement is trying to keep this poster out of areas of high unemployment. Another reads: "You're born. You live. You die. End of story?" Both carry the slogan:

"The Alpha Course. Starting soon at a church near you." There is no contact number on the advertisements. Leaflets will be delivered with details of local churches running the course.

A team of five from the advertising industry gave their time free to design the posters as part of their "Christian ministry". One of them was Francis Goodwin, managing director of Maiden Outdoor, which manages and owns poster sites. "We wanted people to feel that an Alpha course is a perfectly

normal thing to do," he said. "We needed to establish the Alpha name in the world outside the church community and to link its logo with the name, thus helping to create a brand image. We chose posters to give the campaign an impact at street level and to communicate with a large audience."

"We treated Alpha like any commercial client. For me there isn't a contradiction in using modern media techniques. Christ was a great communicator."

The creative team included

veterans of the much-derided Christmas 1996 poster for the Churches Advertising Network: "Bad Hair Day? You're a virgin, you've just given birth and now three kings have shown up."

The Alpha Course was founded 20 years ago at Holy Trinity, Brompton, which serves an affluent community near Harrods and has an annual income of £2.3 million. The parish has become the headquarters of an evangelical movement stretching from Argentina to New Zealand. An estimated 500,000

people have completed the course, including prisoners. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, has strongly supported the growth of Alpha. He applauded the plans for the advertising initiative.

Although originally an Anglican initiative, every Christian denomination is now involved including hundreds of Roman Catholic, Methodist and Baptist churches, and some Pentecostal churches. The main Christian denominations have a total of about 24,200 churches in Britain.

The posters will go up on 5,500 sites next Monday, backed by advertisements in 156 local newspapers.

The 4,000 churches each set out to raise £100 for the campaign. Ken Costa, an investment banker and church warden of Holy Trinity, was reluctant to give full financial details, but the £1 million includes work "in kind" by supporters.

Nicky Gumbel, curate at Holy Trinity, said: "Many young people today have no experience of church. We have seen the country mov-

ing through materialism. Sometimes there has been exploration into the New Age movement or whatever. A lot of people are saying, "These things didn't satisfy, I wonder if there may be something in historic, orthodox Christianity." Churches are growing significantly as a result of people coming to a personal faith in Christ through one of these courses.

The Alpha course discourages homosexuality, divorce and abortion and promotes celibacy outside marriage. Some liberal Christians fear that the Alpha movement is using its financial power to win more influence by ensuring converts are introduced to Christianity through its orthodox, evangelical path.

Mary Robins, an assistant priest at St James's in Piccadilly, said her church helped people who said they had been damaged by Alpha. "Alpha are very black-and-white," she said. "I find them very rigid in their view of what it is to be a woman."

If her church had £1 million to spend, she said, "we would use it to set up day centres and support the Jubilee 2000 campaign to get rid of Third World debt".

Vicar is jailed for cheating parishioners in £50,000 fraud

BY HELEN JOHNSTONE

A VICAR who defrauded parishioners and the Church of England out of an estimated £50,000 by overcharging for weddings, baptisms and funerals was yesterday jailed for nine months.

Roy Hibbert, 68, who retired last year, spent the money on foreign holidays and a retirement home. He was caught after members of his congregation complained that they were being overcharged for services and his superiors called in the police.

Hibbert, who has three children and struggled to live on his stipend, began falsifying accounts in 1986 when he was Rural Dean and Prebendary of Lichfield Cathedral and took over three parish churches in Newport, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told on Monday.

As well as overcharging for services, Hibbert, former rector at St Nicholas Church in Newport, Shropshire, also pocketed extra cash from bellringing. He insisted on payment in cash or cheques made out in his name. He called the extra fees vicar's extras, and because he under-declared his earnings he was awarded extra income from Church funds.

Hibbert added unofficial surcharges to the tariff for weddings and funerals, sometimes doubling the official sum. He carried out the same scam with bellringing charges. He also submitted bills for paying a caretaker and verger at one church where neither position existed. One bride complained that she had been charged £118 for a marriage service in 1988 which police said should have been £42.

Seven years later she was charged £322 for a blessing, after a second marriage in a register office. Bells and a choir were extra. In one instance a young couple offered a cheque but Hibbert walked them to a bank machine to be paid in cash. Hibbert, who admitted 11 charges of false accounting, was sentenced yesterday.

After the case the Diocese of Lichfield said in a statement that Hibbert no longer had a licence to preach, and that new accountancy procedures had been introduced to ensure that nothing similar happened



Hibbert: he overcharged for conducting weddings

again. The statement added: "The diocese places the utmost importance on financial integrity and regularity. Roy Hibbert has betrayed that trust over a number of years. Fortunately an incident such as this is extremely rare."

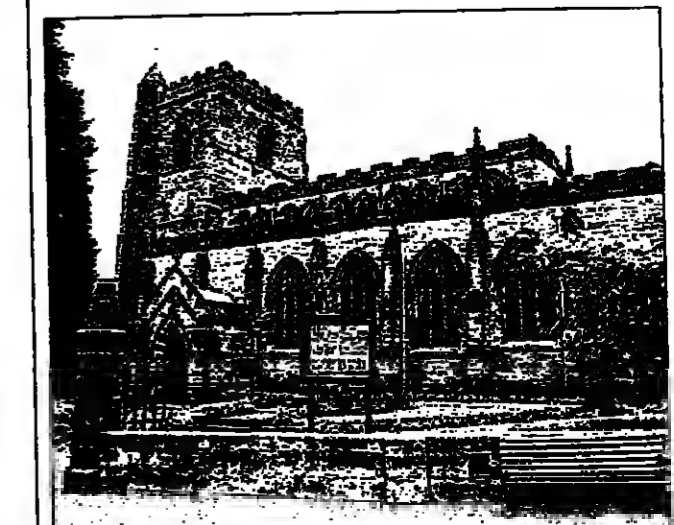
Judge Frank Chapman said Hibbert had struggled to survive on his stipend and the burden of heating and maintaining a large rectory had affected his health and that of his wife. He added: "I suspect you fell into this trap as a means of trying to make life more comfortable for yourself and especially your wife."

"But having said that your income was greater than that of your parishioners and at least equal to that of a young teacher or nurse. You gave 42 years of excellent service, working unselfishly for the Church, parish and community, putting their needs in front of you and your family."

"Your character is not wholly blackened, it is stained. Even an ordained priest can fall into temptation."

The Bishop of Lichfield, The Right Rev Keith Sutton, said after the case: "It is tragic that a priest who has been highly regarded in the parishes he has served should have his public ministry end in such a regrettable manner."

Hibbert had been at Newport for 16 years, having moved from Harlescott in Shrewsbury. Between 1955 and 1958 he was curate at St Francis, West Bromwich, before moving to Candock, Stoke-on-Trent, and then Harlescott in 1967. He was made a prebendary in 1986.



St Nicholas Church, Newport, where Hibbert was rector

Small can't be safe WHY NOT?
 Small can't be spacious WHY NOT?
 Small can't be versatile WHY NOT?
 Your new Mercedes A-class WHY NOT?

The small car that challenges convention.

FOR MORE INFORMATION 0500 20 21 20

A-class

FULL TANK OF FUEL. CAR FEATURED AT 160 AVANTGARDE FROM £14,999 ON THE ROAD. ALL PRICES CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. www.mercedes-benz.co.uk

Scotland suffers as suicide rate continues to rise

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

PEOPLE living in Scotland are more likely to take their own lives than those in other parts of Britain, according to figures published yesterday. The survey from the Office for National Statistics found that the North West of England suffered the highest incidence of all English regions. Although suicide rates across the United Kingdom generally fell between 1982 and 1996, they rose among men aged 15 to 44. The rate declined 4 per cent among all men and 40 per cent among all women, but rose 24 per cent among men aged 15 to 44.

Julia Bunting, co-author of the report, said the most striking finding was that suicide rates in Scotland were considerably higher than in the rest of the country and that these differences had increased over time. "Areas with high deprivation... did tend to be areas with high suicide rates," she said. The survey concluded that "suicide rates in young men and women living in deprived areas (of Scotland) were about twice the rates of those living in affluent areas". For men aged 15 to 44 and 45 and over, the rate in Scotland in 1982-84 was more than 25 per cent higher than that for the United Kingdom as a whole, but by 1994-96 it was over 50 per cent higher. For women aged 15 to 44 the suicide rate in Scotland in 1982-84 was 35 per cent higher than that for the UK as a whole, but by 1994-96 it was 70 per cent higher.

Wales also showed a significant variation from the UK norm: the suicide rate for men aged 15 to 44 was 25 per cent higher than in the UK as a whole, but the rate for women was 21 per cent lower. Lisa Colyer, of the Samaritans, said that there was a clear link between poverty and suicide rates. "A poor socio-economic background is likely to make you feel you have fewer options. People may start off being depressed because they fear the bailiffs will come round after they have failed to pay off a £300 loan to buy a stove and end up feeling there is no way out," she said.



Heavens above: the Rev Anthony Kelton agreed to take to the top of a biplane to bless the marriage of Dave Lawrence to Jane Harland

Alternative venues tempt couples to tie the knot

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

MORE people are opting for civil rather than religious marriage, as couples take advantage of the new freedom to marry in venues such as hotels and castles. Figures published yesterday by the Office for National Statistics show that the proportion of civil to religious marriages, which has stood at roughly 50/50 for more than two decades, has shifted to about 60/40 after the introduction in 1995 of legislation allowing people to marry in non-religious premises other than register offices.

John Haskey, author of the report in the latest edition of *Population Trends*, said that the findings represented "an historically momentous change" second only to the advent of civil marriage in England and Wales in 1837. Mr Haskey also suggested that the introduction of alternative marriage venues may even have resulted in an increase in the total number of weddings, persuading people to marry who would not otherwise have done so.

Those most likely to marry in approved premises were older couples who had previously been living together, and where one of the two had been divorced. There were nearly 18,000 marriages in "approved premises" between April 1995 and December 1996, by which time they constituted 7 per cent of all weddings. Civil marriages as a whole, including those in register offices, formed 52 per cent of all marriages in 1994, but had risen to 59 per cent by 1996.



Martin and Sally Phillips married at Powderham Castle

Backward Britain marked down by UN

BY HELEN RUMBELOW

BRITAIN is one of the most illiterate, poverty-stricken and overworked of all industrialised countries, according to a United Nations report today. Despite moving up a place to become the 14th most advanced country in the world in terms of wealth, education and longevity, Britain is presented as one of the most divided Western societies. More than one in six British people is said to live in poverty, the third-highest proportion among 17 industrialised nations, after Ireland and the

United States. The Netherlands, with similar average earnings to Britain, has one in 50 living in poverty. This new index in the UN's annual Human Development Report differs by including scales of literacy as well as numbers living below the poverty line. Britain is undone on both counts. More than one in five British adults is "functionally illiterate", unable to cope with written instructions such as knowing how many painkillers to take from details on the packet. This is three times as many as in Sweden, which has the least poverty, and surpassed

only by Ireland. Among high-earning countries, the United States and Britain have the highest numbers living below the poverty line - 19 per cent in the USA and 13 per cent in Britain. Other figures in the report add to a blighted image. Of the top 20 most advanced countries, Britain has the highest number of young prisoners, the lowest number of doctors per head, a soaring teenage pregnancy rate beaten only by the United States, and the longest working week at 43 hours. The report notes that the three richest individuals in the world are

richer than 48 countries added together. The richest fifth of the world consumes 16 times as much as the poorest. However, Richard Jolly, the author, said: "Abundance of consumption is no crime. It is the lifeblood of human advance." The West should concentrate on changing patterns of consumption, he said, to make them more environmentally friendly. Britain does have long life expectancy, helped by a lower-than-average suicide rate. The male rate, at 19 per 100,000 people, is under half that of the otherwise high-ranking Finland.

THE NUMBERS AT RISK					
The tables show suicide rates per million population. The rates are ranked according to a confidence interval indicator to take account of their statistical variability. The variability is based on the actual number of suicides.					
HIGH SUICIDE RATES					
Men aged 15-44	Rate*	Number	Women aged 15-44	Rate*	Number
Manchester	337	208	Manchester	113	65
Hastings	406	40	Southampton	99	26
Copeland	356	37	Westminster, City of	93	28
Camrthenshire	328	63	Blackpool	105	19
North West Talbot	328	55	Bolton	88	29
Denbighshire	356	36	Lambeth	84	36
Barrow-in-Furness	359	34	Haringey	86	23
Calderdale	302	74	Barnley	117	13
Penile	342	38			
Tameside	289	86			
LOW SUICIDE RATES					
Men aged 15-44	Rate*	Number	Women aged 15-44	Rate*	Number
Sth Herefordshire	69	4	Stratford-on-Avon	8	1
Torbirg/Malling	94	13	Hart	8	1
Mid Bedfordshire	99	16	Sedgemoor	9	1
Purbeck	75	4	Monmouthshire	9	1
Wokingham	106	21	Thurrock	12	2
Bromley	123	47	Castle Point	10	1
Sth Glos.	122	39	Great Yarmouth	10	1
Fenland	100	10	Babergh	10	1
Harborne	104	12	Yeasbury	11	1
Bestley	122	34	Forest Heath	11	1
WOMEN OVER 45					
Rate*	Number	Rate*	Number		
Camden	201	43	Conwy	157	22
Westminster, City of	175	44	Carrick	155	23
Brighton & Hove	150	45	Manchester	119	46
Cambridge	154	13	Rushmore	150	21
Kensington & Chelsea	148	26	Scarborough	119	20

* Age-standardised suicide rates per million population by local authority, England and Wales, 1991-96
Source: Office for National Statistics

SIEMENS

Hello. We're now on **One 2 One.**

Good buy

A high quality range of Siemens mobile phones is now available on One 2 One. Go straight to your local outlet to see which one is best for you.

one 2 one

THE WORLDS LEADING NOTEBOOKS AT UNBEATABLE PRICES

FROM

PC WORLD Business

To find out more call us now on **01706 367 567**
 Fax: 0800 367 567
 E mail: sales@powbd.co.uk

Also available from PC World Superstores.
 Telephone 0990 484 484 for your nearest store.

TOSHIBA Satellite Pro 320CDT
 £1345 Ex. VAT
 £1580 Inc. VAT

TOSHIBA Satellite Pro 490CDT
 £1795 Ex. VAT
 £2109 Inc. VAT

- 233MHz Pentium MMX processor
- Built-in FDD and 20-speed CD-ROM drive
- 3.82GB HDD / 32MB EDO RAM
- High-resolution 12.1" TFT colour screen

Toshiba's Satellite Pro notebook PCs offer advanced technology to deliver outstanding performance. Consider the Satellite Pro 490CDT with its high-performance Pentium II® processor and built-in CD-ROM, microphone and speakers - offered at a very attractive £1795 Ex. VAT

- 233MHz Pentium II®
- Swappable 20-speed CD-ROM drive
- 3.82GB HDD / 32MB EDO RAM
- High-resolution 12.1" TFT colour screen

TOAFFORD TOBUY TOSHIBA

Amnes... man be... for cluc... to his pa...

...to ma... dicentena...

...CALL FR... DO IT TODAY

صكزا من الأهل

Amnesia man begs for clues to his past

By SIMON DE BRUKELLES

THEY are calling him Richard Unknown. The well-spoken, silver-haired stranger has no recollection of his past life and carried no clues to his identity when he dialled 999 from a railway station in Dorset last Friday.

He had no money, no ticket, no watch and no coat when he became aware that he was standing in the rain on the edge of a wood on the outskirts of Poole. His only possessions, apart from the shirt and trousers he stood in, are a gold tooth and an expensive dental plate.

The mystery man is now appealing for anyone who knows his identity, or how he got there, to come forward in the hope that a familiar face might jog his memory.

Since his admission to Poole Hospital, the stranger has sat lonely and increasingly frustrated waiting for his memory to return. Doctors say that he is suffering from global amnesia, a condition that causes total memory loss.

Although he can write and can recall the name of the Queen, he says he has no recollection at all of his own

life. The man, in his late 50s or early 60s, said: "I have had no flashbacks or dreams of my past life. I don't know my name, my age, or what I did for a living."

"Physically I am fine, but I feel vulnerable and extremely sad and lonely. I don't know what I like or what my tastes are in books, music or newspapers. I don't even know if I have a driving licence."

"There are several imperious questions: do I live on my own? Do I have a wife? Who goes out without money and a watch? I had nothing at all, which seems very strange. We all carry little bits and pieces."

All he can remember are the events leading up to his call from the telephone box at Branksome station. "It has been suggested to me that this is nature's way of protecting me against a traumatic experience," he said.

He is well-built, 5ft 10in and has blue eyes. He has a white mark on the little finger of his right hand, indicating he may have worn a ring.

Brian Wharton, a consultant psychiatrist at St Andrew's Hospital in Northampton, said: "Global amnesia is usually short-lived. It is most often of psychological origin and a temporary denial of a recent event."

"The sufferer is unaware of his background and, in nearly all cases, the amnesia provides an escape from a severely distressing recent event involving themselves or a person close to them. Recovery is normally within a few days, depending on the patient."

Dorset Police have asked anyone who recognises the man to contact the Arne Ward at Poole Hospital on 01302-448330.



Mystery man: "I feel so vulnerable and lonely"

Poets gather to mark Lakeland bicentenary

THREE of the country's leading poets were in the Lake District yesterday to help the Wordsworth Trust to celebrate the bicentenary of the *Lyrical Ballads*, which Wordsworth wrote, with Coleridge.

First published in 1798, the *Lyrical Ballads* marked a transformation in British literature by exploring for the first time the joy and suffering of ordinary people. Last night

Seamus Heaney, winner of the Nobel prize for literature; Douglas Dunn, one of Scotland's foremost writers; and Andrew Motion, poet and biographer, read a selection of their work at the Low Wood Hotel, near Ambleside.

The readings launched the bicentenary event, which continues today with a keynote address from Heaney.

Leading article, page 19

"YOUR FAVOURITE CHARITIES COULD BE MISSING OUT"



Website: www.charitycard.org

There's extra money available for all the causes you support. But you are the key. You and the CharityCard.

Here's how. First you decide how much you want to give to charity. You pay that money into your own CharityCard account. You can open an account with as little as £10 a month or with a one-off sum of £200. Then the tax man adds more to it. This means you have what you've already put in, plus an extra 23% to give away! Now, that's what I call a good idea!

YOUR PERSONAL CHOICE OF CHARITIES

You can use the CharityCard for making personal donations over the phone or by post. You'll also receive a special Charity 'Chequebook' and you can even arrange standing orders for regular gifts. And with the CharityCard you can now give online too, take a look at www.charitycard.org

Who you give to, how much you give and when you do it are all entirely up to you. You can make donations to absolutely any charity you choose, big or small.

DON'T MISS OUT

Make sure your charities don't miss out. To find out more, call free now or use the coupon provided.

Chris Anderson
Chief Ambassador

The CharityCard is a member of the Charity Aid Foundation itself a charity established in 1984. Registered charity no 263047 (Patron HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh) RG 87.

"FIND OUT MORE, CALL FREE 0800 99 33 11, DO IT TODAY!"

Please send me more information about the CharityCard

Mr/Mrs/Ms _____ initials _____

Surname _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Tel No. _____

Please send this completed coupon to:
CharityCard, PO Box 1025,
Stratford upon Avon CV37 9GH



Tim Clague, whose ten-minute film, *NThat*, will be directed by Stephen Daldry

Unknown's first script hailed by leading director

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

AN UNKNOWN 25-year-old writer will have his prize-winning script brought to the screen by one of Britain's leading theatre directors.

The short screenplay by Tim Clague, a video technician at Bournemouth and Poole College, so impressed Stephen Daldry, a former artistic director of the Royal Court, that he has agreed to direct it.

Clague won Daldry's services — and a £100,000 budget for the film — when his script, *NThat*, won the Jerwood Foundation's inaugural film prize yesterday.

Clague, who grew up in Wiltshire, had entered the script at the last minute, thinking it was his too short to meet the competition's ten-minute criterion. So he was surprised to learn that he had beaten 3,000 other entrants in a contest judged by a team that included the Oscar-winning actress Emma Thompson and the producers Eric

Fellner and Tim Bevan of Working Title, whose films include *Four Weddings and a Funeral*. He has since lengthened the script.

Daldry, whose theatre productions have included *An Inspector Calls* and who has spent the past year writing a screenplay for Working Title that he will eventually direct, described *NThat* as "totally self-contained" and "very moving". He said: "For a first-time screenwriter it's remarkably film-literate. He is evidently a talent."

The story centres on an eight-year-old working-class Liverpool boy and his view of his family history and the world around him. Shooting will start on October 5, and casting directors are scouring Liverpool for a child to play the lead.

Clague had initially planned a career in business and computing, but instead took a media course at Bournemouth University.

Jobless get chance to show off art talents

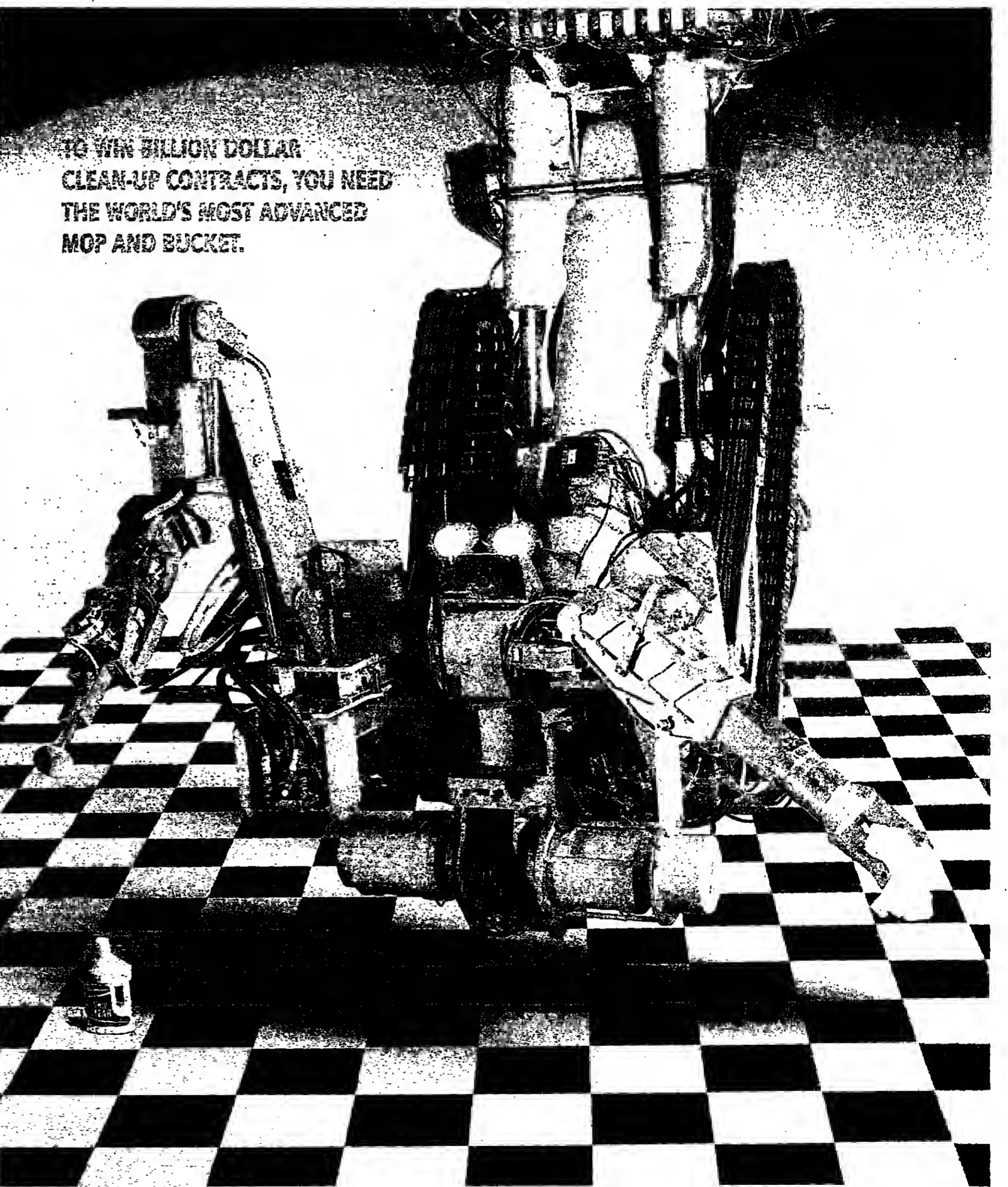
By MARK HENDERSON

THE Commonwealth Institute is to offer unemployed Londoners a stage to show off their creative talents as part of an ambitious plan to get thousands of young people into the arts and media for the millennium.

The institute announced a £5 million partnership yesterday with the charity TS²k (Trafalgar Square 2000) which will see its headquarters in Kensington transformed into a youth cultural centre.

Under the Creative Commonwealth programme, its 6,500 square metres of gallery space, 400-seat theatre, exhibition hall and grounds will be thrown open to London's youth so musicians, actors, dancers and designers can develop their art. There will be regular "showcase" events at which they can impress creative industry professionals looking for new talent.

The institute will be the centrepiece of the TS²k initiative, which hopes to reach 12,000 Londoners by the end of 2000 and find jobs for a third of them.



TO WIN BILLION DOLLAR CLEAN-UP CONTRACTS, YOU NEED THE WORLD'S MOST ADVANCED MOP AND BUCKET.

Meet Rodney. The brainchild of BNFIL, he and his human friends are busy working all around the world, decommissioning outdated nuclear sites.

And the reason we're in so much demand abroad is our track record at home.

We can transform old nuclear installations into reusable land. We've decommissioned one of Europe's largest industrial buildings, and recycled over 10,000 tonnes of metal for general use.

At Sellafield, we're working on one of the world's largest decommissioning tasks, with 24 major projects under way. This, together with our unrivalled 45 years of broad experience in the nuclear industry, has led to many an invitation from other countries.

In the USA, we've built a state-of-the-art decontamination and metals recycling facility in Tennessee. After showing how to handle liquid waste by turning it into a more readily-managed solid form, we are building the world's largest vitrification facility at Hanford.

While at Idaho, we are now planning, constructing and project managing a waste treatment plant.

Having thus earned our spurs, we've recently partnered with a US engineering company to acquire the American-based nuclear giant Westinghouse, creating a truly world-beating combination.

In Russia, we are working on the design of used fuel stores. Worldwide, we are competing for several big decommissioning and waste management projects.

And the bottom line? With Magnox Electric integrated into BNFIL, our 1997-98 profit before tax is £199 million on a turnover of £1341 million, allowing the Government to mop up a shareholder dividend of £53 million. We provide skilled jobs for over 16,000 people, and with over £13 billion worth of contracts in the bag, we're looking forward to even more sparkling results in the years ahead.

To learn more about what we do, come to our Visitors Centre at Sellafield or see our website at www.bnfil.com



venues tempt the kn...

down by l...

FROM

1706 367 55

TOSHIBA
Selling for
£1795
£2109

TOSHIBA

Yeltsin dithers over picking a leader who could depose him

Richard Beeston reports on the Catch-22 facing the President

PRESIDENT YELTSIN was paralysed by indecision yesterday as he searched desperately for a prime ministerial candidate capable of saving Russia from economic collapse, but who is also willing to keep the ailing Kremlin leader in power.

Clasped at his country retreat outside Moscow, Mr Yeltsin, who has not made any public remarks since his embarrassing press conference with President Clinton last week, dithered as the rouble continued to tumble and the country remained rudderless.

Yevgeni Primakov, the acting Foreign Minister, was put forward on Monday as the perfect compromise candidate. The former intelligence chief has credibility abroad and at home, even among the Communists and nationalists.

That left Mr Yeltsin facing a Catch-22 situation. If he appoints Mr Luzhkov, Russia may have an able new leader, but Mr Yeltsin would almost certainly be eased from his throne.

Also, parliament has made it clear it will not go quietly. To counter the threat of dissolution, the Duma is already preparing impeachment proceedings against President Yeltsin, which if endorsed by



Nuclear scientists seeking wage rises and payment of arrears carry banners warning of a threat to national security outside the Ministry of Atomic Energy in Moscow yesterday. Fears grew over nuclear stability after workers at two nuclear research complexes, in the Urals and Sarova, 300 miles southeast of Moscow, went on strike, demanding five months of unpaid wages (Robin Lodge wires)

nor of Krasnoyarsk, a region in Siberia rich in natural resources, could seize the initiative and take control of the country.

One option Mr Yeltsin would like to avoid is having his candidate rejected by the Duma at a third and final vote. Under Russia's Constitution he would be compelled to dissolve parliament and hold fresh elections.

Although this would enable him to rule by decree, he would be running a country with no legitimate government, no parliament and an increasingly restless population which would hold him personally responsible for the country's fate during the harsh winter ahead.

Old women trying to sell surplus apples from their gardens in Tula, 100 miles south of Moscow

300 deputies would make it impossible for the chamber to be dissolved. If that happened, there is the real threat of a repeat of the events of October 1993 when parliament became a magnet for anti-Yeltsin opposition, which he crushed with tanks. This time the military would not back him and could even turn their guns against him.

“Civil war is the most terrible thing that the current political crisis could bring Russia”

Patriarch Aleksii II, the head of the Russian Orthodox Church, yesterday led prayers in front of an icon of the Virgin Mary to ward off the threat of civil strife.

Russia, sandwiched between Poland and Lithuania, announced a state of emergency yesterday, assuming "entire responsibility" for political and economic decisions.

The Dalai Lama, who was due to visit Russia from September 19, has also put off his trip because of the turmoil. He has apologised to Russia's Buddhists.

He was due to visit the republics of Buryatia, Tuva and Kalmykia, where many of the country's Buddhists live, as well as Moscow and St Petersburg. (AP)

There were no restrictions on people's rights and liberties and no price freezes, although appeals had been issued for public order and against hoarding, he said.

Alexandr Lebed, the former paratroop general who was elected Governor of the Siberian region of Krasnoyarsk earlier this year, has ordered price freezes on staple foods, medicines, public transport, fuel and electricity.



Yuri Luzhkov, Mayor of Moscow, is a prime candidate for leadership but is too ambitious for Mr Yeltsin's liking

Show goes on for UK firms at untimely trade fair

FROM ALICE LAGNADO IN ST PETERSBURG

IN A display of true stiff upper lip, Britain opened a trade fair in St Petersburg yesterday despite the free-falling Russian rouble and a bomb scare.

The fair, Britain - Window for Business, was opened by Brian Wilson, Minister for Trade, and featured 139 British companies. But the event was jinxed before it was officially open.

At midday, organisers received a bomb threat and everyone was evacuated for an hour. Police later revealed the phone call was a prank.

A steady trickle of business people and the general public passed through the doors, with an ice-cream stand attracting greater interest than the more expensive British cars on chocolate.

Perhaps the most useful item on display was an automatic banknote counter designed by Manchester-based BMD International Ltd. The counter features an inbuilt dust collector and counterfeit detector.

"I think there could be a good market for these," said Robert Walker, a sales executive for the company. "If more roubles go into circulation, you need to count the notes faster."

Viktor Chernomyrdin, yet to be confirmed by the State Duma as Prime Minister, proposes printing a limited amount of roubles to pull Russia out of the crisis. Critics say it would be extremely difficult to limit the number of roubles printed.

Opening the fair, Mr Wilson said: "Out of adversity very often can come opportunity. Trade goes on whatever the political and economic circumstances and business is being done in that hall."

Vladimir Yakovlev, the Governor of St Petersburg, was equally resolute. "In this century, Russia has survived many crises - the civil war, the Great Patriotic War, the break-up of the Soviet Union - and it has always recovered. Crises come and crises go," he said.

Despite store shelves continuing to empty, British company executives said they were confident investment in Russia was still a safe bet.

"You have got to think long-term, or it will be the Russian Revolution all over again. Too much has been invested in this country by the G7 group," Mr Walker said.

Mike Wilson, general director of Unwins Seeds, said his company might profit from the crisis. "We see the present situation as an opportunity. I think there will be a demand for vegetable seeds in particular. We have been trading in Russia for five years."

Regions take control to maintain supplies

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

FACED with a power vacuum in Moscow, Russian regional leaders took matters into their own hands yesterday, imposing drastic measures to maintain local supplies of food and other essentials.



Old women trying to sell surplus apples from their gardens in Tula, 100 miles south of Moscow

Russia, sandwiched between Poland and Lithuania, announced a state of emergency yesterday, assuming "entire responsibility" for political and economic decisions.

Alexandr Lebed, the former paratroop general who was elected Governor of the Siberian region of Krasnoyarsk earlier this year, has ordered price freezes on staple foods, medicines, public transport, fuel and electricity.

There were no restrictions on people's rights and liberties and no price freezes, although appeals had been issued for public order and against hoarding, he said.

Serbs round up 600 'terror' suspects in Kosovo sweep

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN PRISTINA

HUNDREDS of ethnic Albanians have been detained on charges of terrorism after a crackdown by Serbian government troops on rebels in the province of Kosovo.

The Belgrade pro-government daily Politika reported yesterday that more than 600 ethnic Albanians had been arrested in the past four days in Kosovo. It said that the men, suspected of being members of the insurgent Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), were arrested in southern, south-western and western Kosovo regions. Charges of terrorism would be brought against those involved in attacks on

the Serb police and civilians, while those who were "forcibly mobilised by the KLA" would be released, it added.

According to the paper, the investigation includes tests for traces of gunpowder on their hands to prove they had used weapons. Serb investigators have seized KLA archives.

The Photographs of HG Ponting



A fine art limited edition of 20 photographic prints from Scott's Terra Nova expedition 1910-13

Life insurance?

Men (non-smokers) £100,000 guaranteed cover 25 year term	
Age 30	
EAGLE STAR	£11.20
Standard Life	£12.06
Virgin Direct	£12.35
Direct Line	£13.24
GA Life	£14.40
Age 40	
EAGLE STAR	£24.84
Standard Life	£25.25
Virgin Direct	£27.50
Direct Line	£28.96
GA Life	£32.22
Women (non-smokers) £100,000 guaranteed cover 25 year term	
Age 30	
EAGLE STAR	£8.63
Virgin Direct	£9.15
Direct Line	£9.89
Standard Life	£10.24
GA Life	£10.82
Age 40	
EAGLE STAR	£16.70
Virgin Direct	£17.90
Standard Life	£18.09
Direct Line	£18.89
GA Life	£22.47

For low-cost life assurance call 0800 77 66 66

Also call us for a free home or motor quote

EAGLE STAR

HOW MUCH FISH IS THERE IN AN AVERAGE FISH FINGER?

0%

100%

50%

We're committed to no-nonsense honest labelling so you know exactly what you're buying.

To find the answer, ring freephone 0800 317 827 or visit www.co-op.co.uk

It's a family thing

Uongo P

North hit US

Delhi orders inqu

100,0

صكذا من الأهل

Home run hero gives America back its sense of pride

FROM DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN WASHINGTON

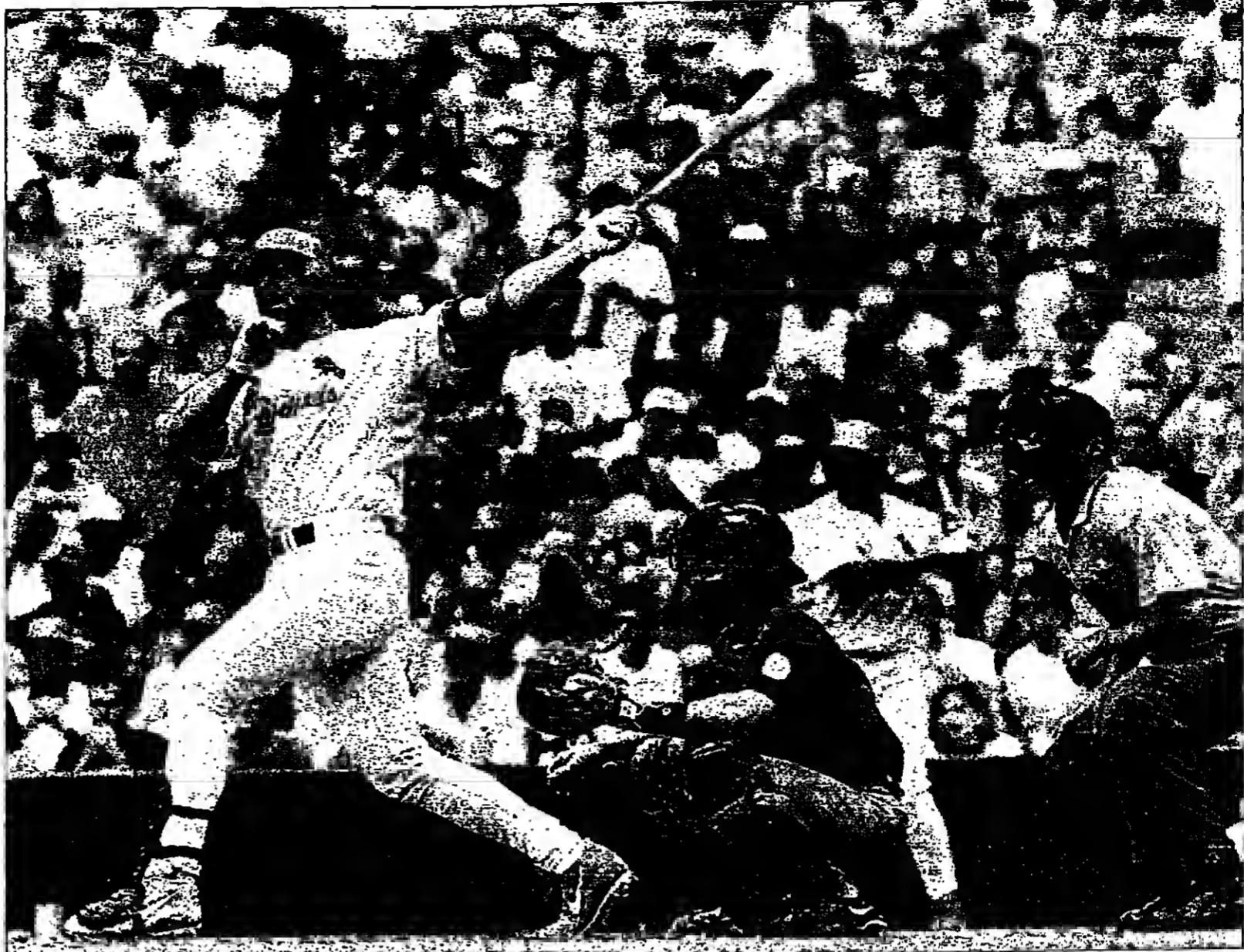
AMERICAN baseball star Mark McGwire was early today just one bat swing away from breaking the record for the most home runs scored in a single season.

He has already earned himself a place in the pantheon of sporting greats and is being hailed as an all-American hero at a time when the country is feeling in need of something to cheer about.

When the giant McGwire drove the ball into the crowd on Monday for his 61st home run of the season, equalling Roger Maris's 37-year-old record, he knocked the beleaguered President Clinton off the nation's screens and down to the bottom of the front pages.

For the past few weeks sports fans have been following every muscle-bound step of the race between the St Louis Cardinals' slugger and Sammy Sosa, of the Chicago Cubs, towards the most romanticised record in baseball. But as McGwire edged ahead and equalled the legendary Babe Ruth's tally of 60, even those who had hitherto ignored the game started talking about the action in the baseball diamond rather than the Oval Office.

As McGwire took to the field in St Louis against the Cubs again last night, he still had plenty of games left this season and, fitness permitting, it is just a question of when, not if, he sets a new record. It is the speed with which he has scored his 61 that has been astonishing. In



Mark McGwire hits his 61st homer of the season to equal the record set by Roger Maris in 1961. America now awaits the new record

1961, Maris eclipsed Ruth's 1927 record in 163 games, but McGwire has taken just 144, with 18 left to play.

When he faced the press after Monday's landmark, he had a soundbite ready. He had hit his 61st run on his father's 61st birthday, he explained. "What I kept thinking was what a great birthday present for my father."

The man with the best present, however, was widely

believed to be Mike Davidson, who had caught the ball McGwire smashed into the capacity crowd. He was escorted from the stadium by security guards because the ball that breaks the record is said by dealers in sporting memorabilia to be worth upwards of \$1 million (£606,060) and Moody's only a little less.

Davidson said that he would give it to McGwire in return for an autographed jersey. This was hailed in the media as a sign that baseball was not, as is often claimed, ruined by greed.

It is certainly true that McGwire and Sosa's race has been the best thing to happen to baseball in a long time. Stadiums that have not been full for almost 30 years have suddenly been sold out.

What has particularly captured the imagination has been the way that the person-

al duel between McGwire and Sosa has been interpreted as symbolising what is good about America. McGwire, a 6ft 4in colossus, is a rugged, white man from a comfortable, middle-class California background who peppers his quotes with references to his fate being in the hands of "the man upstairs".

Sosa is a shy, grinning, former shoeshine boy from the Dominican Republic who spends much of his millions on his family and social projects back home.

The only thing commentators have not dwelt on is the fact that McGwire has admitted using a drug banned by the International Olympic Committee and the National Football League but not Major League Baseball.

Simon Barnes photograph, page 42

Clinton plea for Starr preview

PRESIDENT CLINTON has asked for an advance copy of Kenneth Starr's report into his conduct so that he can publish an instant rebuttal, his lawyers said yesterday.

In a desperate manoeuvre which White House aides admit privately will probably fail, David Kendall, the President's personal lawyer, has called for special treatment from the independent prosecutor. Mr Kendall yesterday released copies of the letter to Mr Starr, appealing to the prosecutor's sense of "elemental fairness" in claiming that the President should be able to respond in advance to the sexually explicit report, expected imminently on Capitol Hill.

Mr Kendall's move came ahead of today's extraordinary, abruptly scheduled meeting of leaders of the House of Representatives and the Judiciary Committee. They are trying to decide which members of Congress should be allowed to see the

White House struggles to stay ahead of game as President comes under more fire over Lewinsky scandal, writes Damian Whitworth

most sensational passages — in the hope, which they admit is forlorn, that the details can be confined to the committee room.

In a move likely to inflame the already simmering relations between Republicans and Democrats on the committee, Henry Hyde, the Republican chairman, is seeking unprecedented powers, including the authority to hold witnesses in contempt of Congress. That would allow Mr Hyde to order the arrest of witnesses who did not co-operate with the committee's inquiry.

Mr Clinton was hit by another rebuke from a fellow Democrat when Barbara Boxer took the floor of the Senate yesterday to launch an attack on his relationship with Monica

Lewinsky. "The relationship was immoral. The President has now agreed with that. He should have taken responsibility much earlier," she said.

The Judiciary Committee will be the first arena in which the President will battle for his survival. Given the explosive nature of the report, members may decide not to press ahead with hearings on it or on the President's impeachment until after the November mid-term elections.

The committee will weigh whether Mr Starr has produced enough evidence of what the Constitution calls "high crimes and misdemeanours" to warrant initiating impeachment proceedings, which could lead ultimately to a Senate vote on

whether the President should be removed.

Yesterday Mr Kendall said that he should be given the report before members of the House, and allowed a week to make a written reply. "You have had unlimited resources at your command and no practical restriction on your power to investigate every aspect of the President's life for the past four and one half years," Mr Kendall wrote. "Elemental fairness dictates that we be allowed to respond to any report you send to the House simultaneously with its transmission."

The move highlights the way in which the White House is struggling to appear in control as Washington awaits the report. The strategy, if Mr

Starr refuses to provide a preview, will be to claim that he is partisan and is attempting to gain maximum impact by surprising the President with a biased report.

The committee consists of 21 Republicans and 15 Democrats and includes Mary Bono — widow of Sonny Bono — Barney Frank, a Boston Democrat renowned for his wit and for being openly gay, and Orrin Hatch, once an extremist but now considered a moderate by the standards of many rightwingers.

There were signs yesterday that public pressure for Mr Clinton to resign was increasing. A bipartisan poll by one Democrat and one Republican pollster showed many Democrats believed the political system was "on the brink of moral bankruptcy" and would not vote in November's mid-term elections.

Leading article, Letters, page 19



Sherrice Iverson, strangled in a casino lavatory, and Jeremy Strohmeyer, who has admitted killing her

Killer rapist avoids the death penalty

FROM TIM DAHLBERG IN LAS VEGAS

A TEENAGER accused of raping and strangling a seven-year-old girl to death in a Nevada casino lavatory pleaded guilty yesterday, avoiding the death penalty by agreeing to spend the rest of his life in prison.

Jeremy Strohmeyer, 19, said he kidnapped, molested and killed Sherrice Iverson on May 27 last year. Strohmeyer could have faced the death penalty if convicted, although during jury selection, several jurors said they would be reluctant to impose it. Strohmeyer answered "Yes, your honour," to questions

asked by Judge Myron Leavitt, describing the crime step-by-step. He pleaded guilty to murder and sexual assault charges. The judge asked if Strohmeyer understood the consequences of his plea, that he would never be released from prison. The defendant said he did.

The prosecution contended that Strohmeyer had admitted fantasising about sex with young girls. The defence had portrayed him as a troubled youth whose father is in prison and whose biological mother is in a psychiatric hospital. (AP)

ALAN CLARK FORUM

Alan Clark, the Tory MP, historian and celebrated diarist, will be speaking on his new book, *The Tories: Conservatives and the Nation State 1922-1997* (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £20) at a Times/Dillons Forum on Wednesday, September 16, 1998.

The forum will be chaired by Peter Stothard, Editor of *The Times*, and there will be an opportunity to put questions to the former Minister. The forum, the 50th in the Times/Dillons Forum series, will take place at 7.30pm at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1E. The admission price of £10 (concessions £7.50 for students, pensioners and the unemployed on production of valid I.D.) includes a reduction of £2 on copies of *The Tories*.

Please book me... tickets at £10 and/or... tickets @ £7.50 (concs) for the Times/Dillons Alan Clark Forum: NAME ADDRESS POSTCODE DAY PHONE I enclose my cheque made payable to Dillons the Bookstore Value £ Cheque No. (please write your name, address and card number on the back of the cheque) Or, please debit my Visa/Mastercard/Amex/Switch/Delta card No. Expiry date: / Issue No. (Switch Cards Only) PRINT NAME SIGNATURE

Please post coupon and remittance to: The Times/Dillons Alan Clark Forum Dillons, 82 Gower Street, London WC1E 6EQ Tel: 0171 467 1613 (24-hr/7-day answerline) Please note that tickets will be posted until September 9 only. Tickets booked after this date will be held for collection on the night at the venue. If you do not receive your tickets please call 0171 636 1577 to confirm your booking.

ENERGIS voice-data-business

It goes out every night at 9pm. On the dot. And this is typical of the reasons why many of our customers, such as the BBC, demand high bandwidth and absolute reliability from their telecoms supplier. The BBC, Associated Newspapers and Reuters are among the many media companies that would accept nothing less than the highest levels of reliability for their mission-critical data. Which is why they all turned to Energis. Telecoms underpins every business. Shouldn't you know what our highly resilient but cost-efficient services can do for yours? For more information on what Energis has done for the BBC and other customers, visit our website or, for printed versions, call us on 0800 316 0613.

Advertisement for Energis featuring a circular graphic with a signal waveform and the text 'I need news'. Below the graphic is the Energis logo and website information.

Advertisement for JAL (Japan Airlines) featuring the JAL logo and the slogan 'A BETTER APPROACH TO BUSINESS'. It lists various services like frequent flyer programs, reward schemes, and flight options to Europe.

A large vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page, partially cut off. It features the text 'Europe's... by... of... pill' and 'Kohl jobs st... to eas...'. There is also a small circular logo at the bottom right.

سكزا من الأهل

Europe's passions stirred by arrival of sex pill

BY CHARLES BREMNER

VIAGRA's imminent launch in Europe is stirring the same excitement as it did in America, but the erection drug is also causing a headache for the cash-starved health managers of the Continent's welfare states.

Already struggling with vast debt, state health funds are in no condition to foot the bill for the expected millions of prescriptions for the blue tablet. Most southern countries will not subsidise Viagra without exceptional medical circumstances. Decisions on reimbursement, the usual method for prescriptions on the Continent, have yet to be taken in Germany. The Netherlands and several other states, but authorities and insurance firms are reluctant to pay for what many call "quality of life" medication.

The German federal doctors' and health insurers' association said it could not afford the "several billion" marks that reimbursement would cost. Those states which decide to pay for Viagra, at least partly, such as Sweden, The Netherlands and Belgium, are setting strict conditions.

For months the press and television have been awash with sensational claims for the pill, which is due to go on sale within weeks in EU member states. Viagra fever seems to be running strongest in the Latin states, with Italy winning the prize for media obsession. Italian men have been flocking to San Marino and into the Italian-speaking cantons of Switzerland for early stocks of the *pillola del amore* (love pill). "Viagra" pizza and ice-cream have been spotted in Naples. In France, a restaurateur in Thonon-les-Bains has been prosecuted for serving a "Viagra sauce".

A spokesman for Pfizer said the Latin clamour for Viagra may be helping to "shatter a few myths about the culture of macho males". But North Europeans have also been ordering the drug on the Internet from Switzerland, Mexico and the United States. The Dutch press has reported widespread "recreational use" in The Netherlands.

South European males will suffer more than most from the cost of the pills, which are to go on sale for about £7 each. Recognising the obstacle of state health insurance, Pfizer has not sought to register the drug for reimbursement under national schemes in Italy, France, Spain and Portugal.

Predictably, the arrival of the blue pill has prompted a bout of moralising from Paris, aghast at the idea of handing taxpayers' funds to erection-seeking Frenchmen. Bernard Kouchner, the Minister of Health, says he will oppose reimbursement from the state insurance scheme. "Viagra makes a thing out of the act of love," he said. "Mais non! Love is a vast subject... We have to know if this is about a medicine or a recreational thing which makes life fun."

Leading article, page 19

French truckers stage blockade

Militant drivers declare 'Fatigue kills' in campaign for 48-hour working week, Ben Macintyre in Paris and Charles Bremner in Brussels report



A German lorry driver demonstrates his support for the French strike that brought traffic to a halt on a key Rhine bridge in Strasbourg

FRENCH lorry drivers spearheaded a protest against long working hours by blocking ports and borders yesterday.

The action prompted Neil Kinnock, the European Union Transport Commissioner, to intervene in an attempt to head off a repetition of the traffic chaos caused during last winter's strike by French truckers.

Showing a degree of sympathy about the drivers' complaints, Mr Kinnock and Padraig Flynn, the Social Affairs Commissioner, said they were fully aware of the strength of grievances over long working hours.

The demonstration yesterday, organised by the International Transport Workers' Federation and national unions, was intended as a thinly veiled threat of more serious industrial action by European lorry drivers unless demands for an improvement in working conditions and shorter hours are met.

In a statement, Mr Kinnock promised new European legislation to cut the drivers' hours if no solution were reached in transport industry talks by the end of this month.

Under the emerging pact, which will form the basis of a new law, drivers could not be required to work for more than an average of 48 hours a week. This could be extended

to 60 hours provided that it did not bring the average over 48 hours for the working month.

Such a pact would go well beyond existing limits to driving hours because working time would also include hours spent loading, unloading, supervising passengers and freight, cleaning and maintenance, a spokeswoman for the Commission said.

Transport workers had previously been excluded from the EU's 1993 working time directive, which was unsuccessfully fought in the EU courts by the last British Government.

France's militant lorry drivers, who staged crippling national strikes in 1996 and last year, led the protest yesterday, handing out leaflets, setting up filter barricades and in some places entirely blocking roads and port access.

Long tailbacks were reported at northern French Channel ports and on France's borders with Spain and Belgium. German drivers teamed up with their French counterparts to block traffic at border points, and similar protests were mounted at the Luxembourg, Swiss and Italian frontiers.

Drivers and truckers at Le Havre and Dieppe were delayed for hours, while the port of Cherbourg was briefly cut off by lorry barricades. There

were no barriers at Calais, but protesters stopped cars to air their grievances and distribute leaflets reading "Fatigue kills".

The protesters are demanding a maximum 48-hour week, pointing out that many road accidents are the result of driver fatigue. About 1,350 lorry drivers were killed on European roads last year, and 42,000 were injured.

The 24-hour strike will cost British industry at least £1 million and seriously disrupt delivery schedules in Europe, the British Freight Transport Association said. "Today's action is a show of strength and indicates that the demonstrations could be much worse this winter. This may be just the beginning," Daniel Hodges, spokesman for the Road Haulage Association in Britain, said.

John Reid, the Transport Minister, last night called on the French authorities and the

Commission to act promptly to keep main routes open and minimise the effect of any strike action on British truckers.

During previous trucker disputes, the French Government had declined to clear road blockades by force.

Car-free day: Thirty-five French towns and cities, including Paris, will enforce a partial ban on traffic in a trial set for September 22. Dominique Voynet, the Environment Minister, announced. Cars, except electric vehicles and those using liquefied petroleum gas, will be barred from 7am to 9pm. (AFP)

Kohl clutches at jobs straw in plea to east Germans

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN



HELMUT KOHL travelled to Weimar yesterday to win over the east of Germany, clutching the slender straw of a slight improvement in the critical unemployment figures.

"It is getting better and better," he told the crowd — but east Germans, promised "blossoming landscapes" eight years ago, are not convinced and seem inclined to turn their backs on the Chancellor's Christian Democrats.

Unemployment fell last month, in the seasonally adjusted terms which are used as a political barometer, by 39,000 to 4.1 million, or 10.6 per cent of the workforce.

"I expect that in the coming months the number of unemployed will drop below four million and in the full year we will have fewer people out of work than in 1997," the Chancellor said. "The poverty development has stabilised."

The key to winning back east Germans — once enthusiastic supporters of the "Chancellor of unification" — is to demonstrate a definite shift in the tide. Many communities in the east still have more than 20 per cent unemployment, and the average jobless rate in the former Communist East Germany is 17.1 per cent. Unemployment came as a shock to east Germans after four decades of communism.

The situation in the east has eased for the past three months. "We can say that the turning point has been reached," said Bernhard Jagoda, head of the Federal Labour Agency. Yet the improvement — 12,000 new jobs last month — is almost entirely the result of job-creation schemes which, after cuts last year, are again receiving generous government funding.

The east is politically vul-

nerable to the crisis in Moscow since the Russian market remains a big factor in the export business of medium-sized companies. About 30,000 jobs are dependent on Russian trade. The positive trend could be reversed quickly.

The Social Democrats describe the unemployment figures as no more than a "tiny bit of sunshine". Their election campaign is almost entirely centred on the inability of the Chancellor to create new jobs. He has been dubbed the "Chancellor of unemployment" by his rival, Gerhard Schröder.

Most analysts agreed yesterday that Herr Kohl's failure to push the jobless figure below four million in the month before the general election has robbed him of a decisive vote-winner. This week he is to attend at least four election rallies in the east, compared with only one in Bavaria.


Christian Democrats still believe that the east can be saved for their party. They lag behind the Social Democrats by about 5 per cent and there are only 18 days to close the gap. Herr Kohl is gambling on a last-minute swing in his favour by some of the 53 per cent of Germans who say they are undecided.

Pope plans to canonise Pius XII

Rome: The Pope, who next month marks 20 years as pontiff, plans to canonise three of his immediate predecessors — Pius XI, John XXIII and Paul VI — and hopes to proclaim them saints in time for the millennium, according to Italian media reports (Richard Owen writes).

The prospect of Pius XII (1939-58) being declared a saint has aroused opposition among Jewish and other groups because of his alleged failure to help victims of the Nazi Holocaust during the Second World War.

Vatican watchers said the implication of the proposal was that sainthood would become "almost automatic" for pontiffs, as in early Christian times.



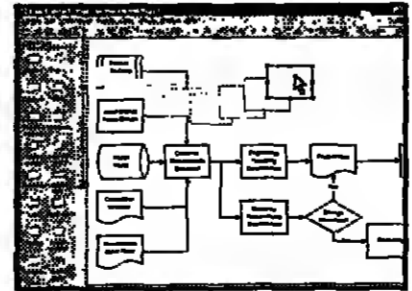
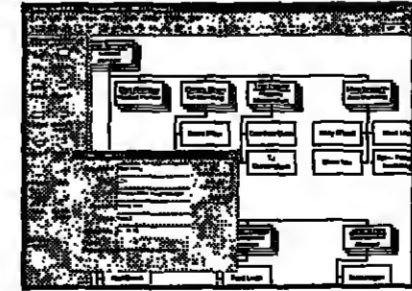
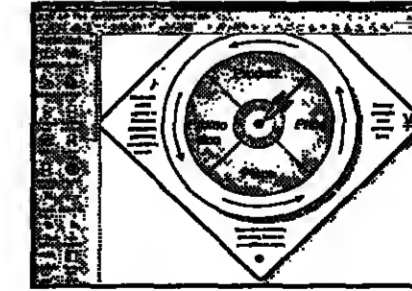
Visualize your business*

SAVE A THOUSAND WORDS

Visuals help you communicate complex ideas more clearly and accurately than you can with mere words.

THOUSAND WORDS

Visio Standard 5.0 offers dynamic business graphics

including flowcharts, org charts, marketing and sales diagrams, and features over 1,300 pre-drawn shapes called SmartShapes® symbols. So, say you have a proposal or presentation due this week. With Visio Standard 5.0 you can illustrate your strategy with an easy-to-understand diagram, further explain the process with a flowchart, and get your staffing approved with an organisation chart. Basically, anything you could say with words, you can show with Visio. And Visio makes it easy to create polished diagrams: just assemble the diagram using the provided task-specific shapes. Even cut and paste your Visio diagrams into a Microsoft Word document, or put them into a PowerPoint presentation, and you're ready to go. With a 60-day money-back guarantee, you have nothing to lose. Well, except for a few thousand words. Visit your reseller today and pick up a copy of Visio Standard 5.0 or call 0800 834 859 ext 5152.

Action Computer Supplies Microwarehouse PC World
Software Warehouse

RISK FREE **MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE**

www.visio.com/ukvs

© 1998 Visio Corporation. All rights reserved. Visio, the Visio logo, the Visualize your business logo, and SmartShapes are either trademarks or registered trademarks of Visio Corporation in the United States and/or other countries. All other trademarks, trade names or company names referenced herein are used for identification only and are the property of their respective owners.

7.25%* INSTANT ACCESS

Proof you don't need a big ad to create a lot of interest.

For more details on the Instant Access Savings Account that offers a consistently high rate of interest, please ring free on **0500 804 804**.

BANK OF SCOTLAND
— BANKING DIRECT —
call us free on **0500 804 804**

06 367

1795
2109

TOSHIBA

RICHARD BRANSON: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY

How I forced BA to eat their words



In the third extract from his autobiography, **Richard Branson** tells how he exposed British Airways' dirty tricks, and won a record-breaking libel settlement



Deadly commercial enemies: Richard Branson and Lord King of Walmaby, then chairman of BA, bumped into each other a few days after Virgin's victory

The row with BA had one immediate casualty that I should have foreseen. One of their objectives was to stop me expanding Virgin Atlantic and the only way I could do that was by refinancing the airline. The louder I complained about their dirty tricks, the less any other airline, venture-capital house, or other investor wanted to invest in Virgin Atlantic.

booked. Would she mind changing to a British Airways flight? This was the last straw. Yvonne Parsons had flown to and from the States four times in the past eight months and each time there had been an alleged "booking error" with Virgin. All of the callers had failed to contact her again. On one occasion when she had tried to contact the caller herself — a "Mary Ann" — she was told there was no such employee at Virgin. She was furious with Virgin and switched to American Airlines and United for her flights. When she decided to give Virgin one last try, she couldn't believe it when another member of the Virgin reservations staff called her to tell her that the flight was overbooked and would she mind flying British Airways.

I must have been the victim of an elaborate and disgraceful deception by British Airways. I'd always been offered flights on British Airways, never on other airlines. I wondered whether these people were British Airways staff impersonating Virgin.

When we embarked on the court case, we were helped by a great deal of evidence from disillusioned British Airways staff. Out of the blue, we received a call from a former BA employee called Sadig Khalifa, who worked on the Helpline section, which was there ostensibly to help BA passengers to transfer between flights. But Helpline was given a new task: to accumulate as much information about Virgin Atlantic as possible. And how were they to get the information? By using the Virgin flight numbers to gain direct access to the British Airways booking system. This was something they had assured Virgin that they wouldn't do.

"Well, as I told Frank Kane, if you publish it, I'll have no choice but to sue you for defamation." "I'll ask Frank to go back and check the sources," Grove told me. "Too old to rock 'n' roll: too young to fly" was the opening line of *The Sunday Telegraph Business* editorial. I absorbed the entire piece in one panicked look. There was no mention of defectors or phone-tapping.

very hard to put me out of business and my staff out of their jobs. They had also forced me to sell Virgin Music, which had affected a whole group of other people who had nothing to do with the airline. It made me furious. I was not going to sit back over a gentleman's breakfast and agree that it was all just a certain amount of "egg on face".

THE TIMES

THURSDAY

30p

In tomorrow's 30p Times, read exclusive extracts from Richard Branson's autobiography, *Losing My Virginity*.

The Times. Now only 30p weekdays.

CHANGING TIMES

http://www.the-times.co.uk

Only applicable in mainland Britain.

"What is it?" "It's of two men talking, and I think one of them's Colin Marshall [of BA]." "What are they saying?" "They're talking about the *Violating Virginity* programme and they mention Chris Hutchins [of *Today* newspaper] and the Basham tape [Brian Basham was BA's PR man and had been recorded by Hutchins making apparently compromising statements]. And one of them says that there's a clear case for defamation and he's very close to instituting proceedings against the programme."

I asked Chris Moss to send the tape to me. I wondered who on earth could have sent it to us. Somebody had apparently bugged British Airways' phones. At first I was lulled into thinking that somebody was being helpful, but I soon realised that it could be a trap. I decided to send it straight back to BA for the personal attention of Sir Colin Marshall.

The next Saturday, Frank Kane, then a journalist with *The Sunday Telegraph*, rang. "I gather that you've employed private detectives to investigate British Airways," he started. "I've also got proof that you're phone-tapping and my sources inside Virgin have told me that Tiny Rowland is egging you on and that he is also employing Freddie Laker." "Don't be ridiculous, Frank," I said. "That's complete bollocks."

"I've been told that the detective agency you're using is the American operation IGI and that Goldman Sachs have also been involved." "Frank, I've never issued a writ against a newspaper but if you really think that you can publish that then I'll have to sue you." I called up *The Sunday Telegraph* and got put through to Trevor Grove, the Editor. "This is a mad story," I said. "You can't possibly publish it."

I knew that Frank Kane was in the office with him because there was a pause before he answered. "Frank tells me that he's got impeccable sources for this story," Grove told me.



After Virgin's victory, Branson received a card which read: "Dear Richard, Hurrah! Love from Diana"

Immediately after Khalifa's affidavit arrived at BA's lawyers, I received a call from Michael Davis, a BA non-executive director who was a longstanding friend of my parents. He asked me whether we could meet for breakfast. At our meeting, Michael began talking about "egg on face". This was the first hint of apology. He had obviously been singled out as the one non-executive who could talk to me. I watched Michael Davis grope for the appropriate words. Reading between the lines, he was telling me that Lord King's days at British Airways were over. "I think you, me and Sir Colin [Marshall] should sit down together."

TOMORROW

"I was now by myself, flying the biggest balloon ever built. Whatever I did next would lead to my death or survival"

Branson: another great adventure

Health insurance.

From 48p a day.

Call 0800 77 99 55

Prime Health to find out more.

Ref: M1182NG

I was terrified my son was dying

Posthouse

£25

Bed and Breakfast per person, per night

Go now!

0345 40 40 40

سكزا من الأهل



Mothers-to-be: Posh Spice, left, and Scary in action

Why Spice babies won't start a boom

Pop icons should not be held responsible for teenage pregnancies. Anjana Ahuja reports

First there was Melanie Blatt from the girl band All Saints proudly parading her swollen tummy to, among others, the Prince of Wales. Then Posh and Scary announced that they were pregnant. The Saint and two Spices squealed excitedly that they would be keeping their babies. Within weeks, Girl Power had become Pram Power and a tell-tale bump was the hottest fashion accessory in town.

girls. "I think these comments are a real shame," says Julie Burniston, features editor of *Mix*, a magazine aimed at girls aged 12 to 15. "The Spice Girls are in their twenties and are in stable relationships. They have over openly done anything to be ashamed of, such as drink and take drugs. And they have shown that women can make their own fortunes and careers without a man."

same period last year. We would be much more worried if the rise was 10 or 20 per cent. And remember, we are still seeing the effects of the Pill scare.

"We would ask young girls who are looking at their idols to remember that the Spice Girls have a lot of support and have the financial resources to bring up a baby. Could they count on the same support?"

pursue careers at the expense of starting a family. "I don't like the idea that girls always have babies to increase their self-esteem, or to replace a career. The maternal instinct is very strong, and motherhood is a valid career in itself. It is natural for a sexually active girl in a loving relationship to want children. Even the most hardened feminists would agree. It is a way of fulfilling themselves. To say 'this girl can't have a career so she must have babies' is as absurd as saying 'this girl is infertile so she must have a career'. What's so special about having a career?"

I was terrified my son was dying

Novelist Douglas Kennedy on the ordeal of his child's illness. Interview by Moira Petty

Douglas Kennedy, master of the decline-and-fall thriller, has just earned his second advanced royalties cheque of \$1.1 million (£666,000). Two years ago, he was living in a "cramped flat" in southwest London with his Irish wife, Grace, and two small children. Then he delivered the manuscript of *The Big Picture*, an enthralling tale of a Wall Street lawyer prepared to sacrifice everything for freedom. The first big payday had arrived.

was taken seriously ill. He had suffered from epileptic fits in January but seemed to have recovered. In May, what Kennedy calls "the shudders" started again.



Irish-American author Douglas Kennedy had recently achieved success with his decline-and-fall thrillers when his son became ill, plunging his newly comfortable life into uncertainty

£25

Bed and Breakfast per person, per night (excluding Saturday nights)

Go NOW!

Posthouse is a division of Forte Hotels

PARTICIPATING LOCATIONS

- Aberdeen
- Belfast
- Beley
- Birmingham - Great Barr
- Birmingham Airport
- Birmingham City
- Brighouse
- Bristol
- Cardiff
- Carlisle
- Chester
- Croydon
- Darby/Burton
- Dover
- Epping
- Fareham
- Glasgow Airport
- Glasgow Erskine Bridge
- Gloucester
- Grimsby
- Havant
- Haydock
- Hull
- Ipswich
- Lancaster
- Leeds/Bradford (Bramhope)
- Leeds/Selby
- Leicester
- Lincoln
- Maidstone/Sevenoaks
- Manchester Airport
- Newcastle-upon-Tyne
- Norwich
- Peterborough
- Portsmouth
- Preston
- Rochester
- Sheffield
- South Mimms
- Southampton
- Southampton/Eastleigh
- Stevenage
- Swansea
- Taunton
- Teesside
- Wakefield
- Warrington/Runcorn
- Washington
- York
- Bolton (The Beaumont)
- Liverpool (The Gladstone)
- Southampton (Polygon)
- Walsall (The Boundary)
- Worcester (The Giffard)

TERMS & CONDITIONS: Price shown is per person based on a night accommodation, excluding Saturdays, full breakfast and VAT at 17.5% based on two adults sharing a standard twin/double room. At Forte, up to two children under 16 stay free when sharing a room with two adults, subject to availability of a suitable room. Bookings must be taken before 21st September 1998. All reservations are subject to availability with a limited number of rooms available at these promotional rates. These offers cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer or special promotion.

0345 40 40 40

was at the Cannes Film Festival. "I felt worse for Grace. At first, I told her to wait for a day or two because I hoped there would be a turnaround so she wouldn't have to see Max in this condition. But she was with me within hours, having taken the first flight back."

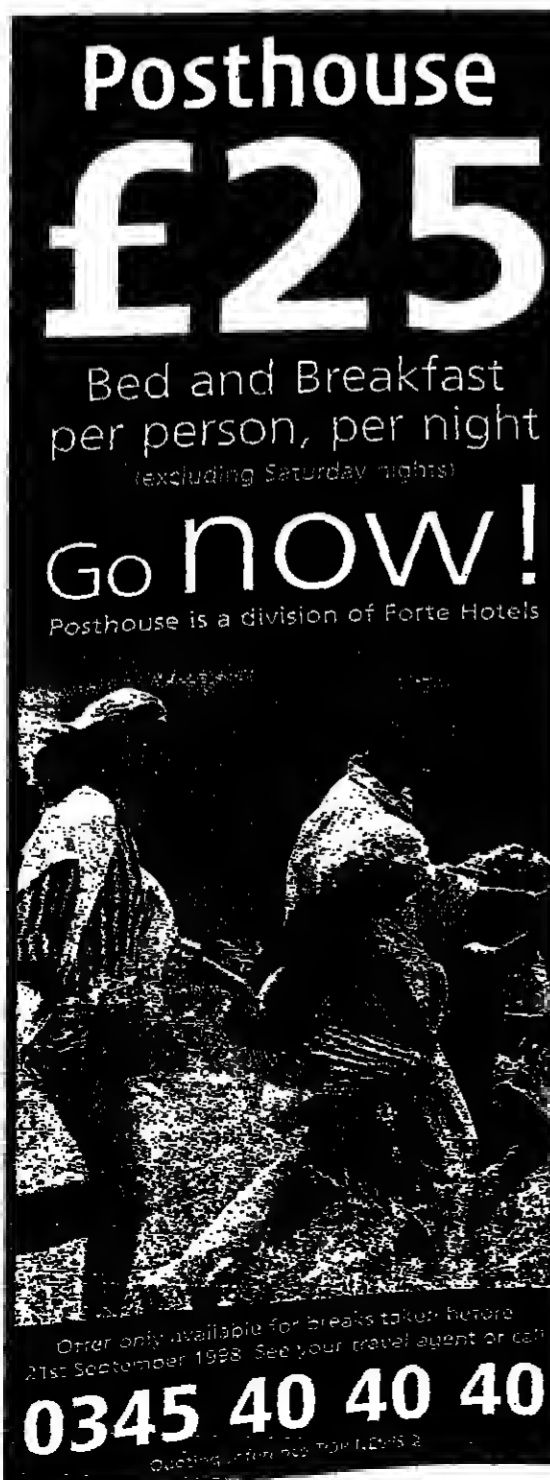
Max's condition was finally stabilised. Now he is on medication and attends a fee-paying special school. Kennedy does not want to talk about Max's specific condition and was reluctant to speak about the recent events. Kennedy has turned down offers to write an account, while conceding that some of it might find its way into his fiction.

He also points out that Max is not autistic and is able to have normal relationships with his family. But nobody knows what his abilities will be in the future.

Kennedy was brought up in the upper middle-class culture of Manhattan and New England — among whose movers and shakers he has set his last two novels. He has had to make a huge mental leap to accept that Max's horizons may be limited. "In the environment I was raised in, you were measured by your achievements. Now I realise that the kid who at two seemed destined for Oxbridge might turn out to be the kid saying: 'Do you want fries with your burger?' We think we can fix everything. In America there is no concept of tragedy. Something just went wrong. But you can't necessarily put things back together again."

"If the last two years have taught me anything, it is that life is a painfully random event. I thought Max's illness was terminal. What matters is that he has survived and he will turn out to be what he turns out to be."

Kennedy describes Max as a "brilliantly funny little kid". Although not linguistically able, he has an advanced appreciation of music. "He can hum all of *Peter and the Wolf*". His other child, two-year-old Amelia, is "extrovert and very in control — it's like living with Mrs Thatcher".



west London, furnished in minimalist loft-style with selected items from *The Conran Shop*.

The children's play room was designed so they can trash it. I don't want them growing up in some kind of German art catalogue.

His books are full of descriptions of homes, clothes, shopping trips. "The material is one way in which people define themselves," he says. Yet apart from his house, his only indulgence has been a good sound system and the 20-volume *Grove's Dictionary of Music and Musicians*.

In *The Job*, his salesman hero faces the consequences of his moral choices. "My characters are grey, not black and white. I don't see why popular fiction can't be well written. I like to take the genre and sub-

vert it. I'm amused by bad lyrical prose. You can write in a straight way and still deal with emotional issues. You won't read sex scenes in my books because I believe that they should happen off the page. By and large, sex scenes are an excuse for extremely bad writing."

• *The Job* is published by Little Brown at £12.99.

two-bedroom Manhattan apartment. His mother, Lois, had worked in TV production but gave up her job to look after her family. Kennedy is bemused by highly educated women of his generation who do likewise.

"I could not have married anyone who was a stay-at-home type. One of the things that struck me about Grace was her independence. Certain people seemed determined in their own marriage to repeat parental mistakes. I was determined to dodge them. After 15½ years together and married for 13 — we are used to each other and give each other space. I went hill walking in the Himalayas on my own recently and will start my next novel in a hotel in the Canadian Rockies in October. Grace travels a lot for work. My marriage is not the disasters I describe in my novels."

They have no plans to have a third child. Kennedy admits that "like most men I was afraid of fatherhood. I thought it would be the end of my freedom." He is incensed by what he describes as "the terrible fascism that there is a right way to raise children. They need lots of love, a structure to their life, a sense of humour and of right and wrong."

In April 1997, Kennedy paid cash for a large Victorian house in Wandsworth, south-



The man who was afraid of being a father

Forthcoming marriages

Mr W.R. Addis and Miss R.J. White... The engagement is announced between William, elder son of Mr and Mrs Robert Addis...



This ivory box bought for under £10 at a country house sale in Yorkshire in 1947 is expected to make up to £300,000 at Sotheby's in London next month after being identified as an 11th-century pen box from Islamic Spain.

School announcements

Brentwood School (HMC) The Michaelmas Term at Brentwood School begins today with Tom Williams as Head of School...

COURT CIRCULAR

BALMORAL CASTLE September 8: The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh visited Ballalar, Aberdeenshire...

Royal engagements

The Duke of York will open the Aspire National Training Centre for Disabled People at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, Stanmore at 10.30.



Michael Keaton, the actor, is 47 today

Birthdays today

Mr R.B. Adams, former managing director, Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, 77.

Inner Temple

Justice R.J. Goldstone, Dr Justice Adarsh Sain Anand and Sir Jeffrey Bowman have been elected Masters of the Bench of the Inner Temple.

Reception

Royal Over-Sea League Mr Tony Sandell, Director of the University Women's Club held yesterday at 2 Audley Square.

Dinner

University Women's Club Professor Ben Pimlott, FBA, was the speaker at a dinner of the University Women's Club held yesterday at 2 Audley Square.

Albert Memorial

The Queen will reopen the Albert Memorial in Kensington Gore on October 21 and not October 30.

PERSONAL COLUMN

BIRTHS BALLARD - On September 8th at the Portland Hospital to Tania and David, a son, Alexander, a brother for Sawyer.

DEATHS ANDREWS - Pauline Joy aged 74, died peacefully on September 7th, but peace had been hers for many years.

CHURCH NEWS Curate of Morrison in the Swansea and Brecon Diocese, is to become Cleric-in-Charge of Llanfairisgar and Llanddeio-Isaf.

WANTED ALL persons who have been contacted by the above person... TICKETS FOR SALE ALL seats for the production of 'The Merchant of Venice'...

سكروان الأهل

OBITUARIES

PROFESSOR W. B. GALLIE

Professor W. B. Gallie, philosopher, died in Cardiff on August 31 aged 85. He was born near Glasgow on October 5, 1912.

Bryce Gallie was more of a humanist than a technical philosopher, and disliked the narrow cleverness of some 20th-century philosophy. He was deeply interested in the arts, education and politics, and published on the philosophy of both science and history.

undergraduate years, partly (he tells us) because, as a philosopher "I went after that 'Cambridge crowd'". Gallie always declared however, that Lindsay's lectures had given me more than anything else I had found in Oxford.

After the war he became disappointed Lindsay again by working on the American logician, C. S. Peirce. His Peirce and Pragmatism (1952) was important chiefly for introducing this writer to English students. In the meantime he produced papers on "Hölderlin's Religious Poetry" on the question "Is The Prelude a Philosophical Poem?" and on "Péguy the Moralist" — that is to say, on authors whose work had been a support to him during the war.

He quickly emerged as a stimulating influence at the Queen's University, and his arrival in Belfast coincided with the opening of a particularly fruitful period in his philosophical work. He soon produced his essay on "Essentially Contested Concepts" and after this he addressed himself to the problem of history in Philosophy and Historical Understanding (1964).

Before leaving Belfast, he had begun to move in a new direction, and was working on the problem of war, which bore fruit in his last books, Philosophers of Peace and War (1978) and Understanding War (1990). This change in his interests helps to explain his migration in 1967 to the chair of political science at Cambridge, where students of politics were feeling a dearth on the philosophical side.



Gallie: his philosophical work showed an admirable humanism and ranged widely, but was never fully developed

LAL WATERSON

Lal Waterson, folk singer and songwriter, died from cancer on September 4 aged 55. She was born on February 15, 1943.

A MEMBER of Britain's foremost family of traditional singers, Lal Waterson had a plaintive voice that was one of the great glories of English folk music. She formed the Watsonsons with her older siblings, Norma and Michael Waterson, her cousin John Harrison and later her brother-in-law Martin Carthy.



Lal Waterson with her folk singer son Oliver Knight

in 1964 on the New Voices anthology on the independent Topic label, for whom Lal Waterson was still recording when she died.

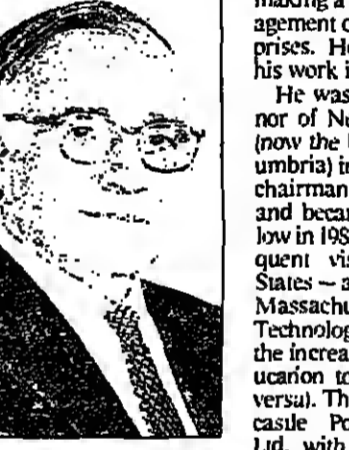
Never a prolific writer, Lal Waterson disappeared from the recording scene until two years ago when she returned with Once in a Blue Moon, a critically acclaimed album of a dozen new songs accompanied by her son Oliver Knight on guitar.

She is survived by her daughter and son and an extended but close musical family.

SIR HORACE HEYMAN

Sir Horace Heyman, industrialist, died on September 4 aged 86. He was born on March 13, 1912.

A SUCCESSFUL industrialist until he was 52, Sir Horace Heyman went on to make an outstanding contribution to the transition of the North East from a bastion of the Industrial Revolution, with its traditional coalmining, steelworking and shipbuilding interests, into a budding for so-called "sunrise" industries.



Heyman represented the electric vehicle industry on the managing committee of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders between 1952 and 1964.

He is survived by his second wife, Dorothy, whom he married in 1966, and by a son and daughter from his first marriage.

vance was the development of a new control system for electric vehicles, known as Sevcon, which was spun off into a separate company. He also developed products in the food transport industry; vehicles for the delivery of meat, groceries, fish and ice-cream.

FLATSHARE, SITUATIONS WANTED, MULTILINGUAL

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY, FARESAVERS, JETLINE

ANNOUNCEMENTS, LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICES, NOTICE TO CREDITORS

LEGAL NOTICES, NOTICE TO CREDITORS

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY, DELTA WORLDWIDE

Jetworld, FLIGHTWISE, FLIGHTSEEKERS

75 is no age to be leaving home, Rubka

HEALTH & FITNESS, The secret of healthy sleep

HEALTH & FITNESS, The secret of healthy sleep

TONY THISTLETHWAITE

R. A. F. Thistlethwaite, former chief press officer of the British Medical Association, died on September 4 aged 71. He was born on November 14, 1926.

TO THOSE who knew him R. A. F. Thistlethwaite was simply "Tony T.", a gentle giant standing 6ft 2in in a frame to match.

Birmingham Medical School before deciding against medicine. He read history at St Catherine's College, Oxford, and after graduating worked in a library and at bookbinding.

He was a man of singular virtues, not least of which was the extra thought and practical help he gave in the name of friendship.

THE CORONATION, The ceremonies observed at the royal coronation of their most excellent majesties King William the Fourth and Queen Adelaide, on Thursday, September 8, 1831.

ON THIS DAY, September 9, 1831, Greville wrote of William IV (1765-1837) that "his ignorance, weakness... prove him to be one of the silliest old gentlemen".

ON THIS DAY, September 9, 1831, Greville wrote of William IV (1765-1837) that "his ignorance, weakness... prove him to be one of the silliest old gentlemen".

ON THIS DAY, September 9, 1831, Greville wrote of William IV (1765-1837) that "his ignorance, weakness... prove him to be one of the silliest old gentlemen".

INSIDE SECTION
2
TODAY



BUSINESS
Janet Bush says don't look for MPC visionaries
PAGE 27



ARTS
Just what makes David Rendall a cut above other tenors?
PAGES 30-32



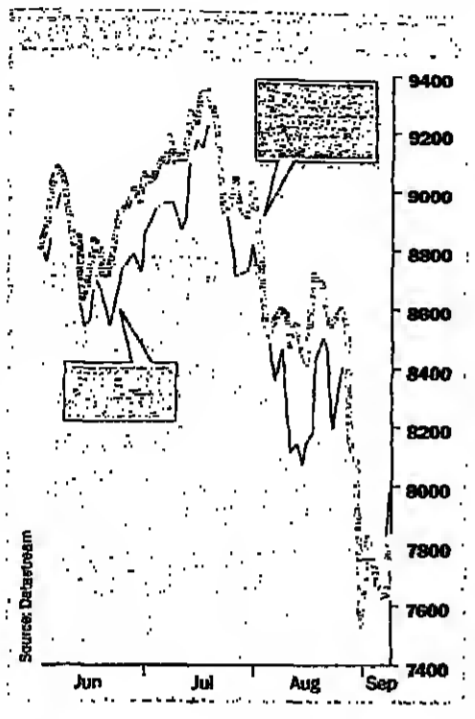
SPORT
Kuala Lumpur prepares for Friendly Games
PAGES 38-44

TELEVISION AND RADIO
Pages 42, 43

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 9 1998

Rise in industrial production puts rate cut hopes on hold Shares rally hits the buffers

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS EDITOR



LONDON'S share price rally, spurred by slim hopes of an interest rate cut this week, came to an abrupt end yesterday after figures showed a surprise expansion in industrial activity.

The FTSE 100 index of leading shares fell 2.8 points to 5,344.2, failing to build on Monday's 180-point surge, the second-largest in history.

Against City expectations, industrial production rose 0.4 per cent in July and manufacturing output edged up 0.1 per cent. Economists had expected both measures to fall in July and yesterday's official data appears to have scuppered any hopes of a cut in UK interest rates.

The Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee, which sets the level of interest rates, begins its monthly two-day meeting today.

The subdued performance in London was in contrast to other

European bourses which continued to score gains yesterday as Wall Street closed on Monday for Labor Day, played catch-up and surged 300 points during morning trading.

German shares closed with healthy gains of 3 per cent and French stocks finished nearly 3 per cent higher as investors continued to react to remarks on Friday by Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the US Federal Reserve, suggesting that he may be prepared to cut US rates if the world economy continues to deteriorate.

On Monday, London shares had outperformed others as investors banked on lower rates in not only America, but the UK too.

The sterling futures market, which had been tentatively pricing in a 0.25 percentage point cut in base rates, fell back and now expects no change. In addition,

the pound continued to weaken yesterday, which the Bank will regard as a *de facto* loosening of monetary policy. The pound closed down more than a penny at DM2.8640 compared with Monday's close of DM2.8795.

The British Retail Consortium's latest snapshot of retail sales defied anecdotal evidence of a livelier performance in the high street in August. The BRC said that August sales were only 1.5 per cent up on a year ago, the same as in July, a month when high streets suffered from bad weather.

Better weather in August allowed excess stocks to be sold but only at heavy discounts and, according to the BRC, concern about job security in the wake of high profile redundancy announcements had made consumers more cautious.

Ann Robinson, BRC director-general, said: "Consumer confidence has been declining for some time... The Bank of England should now reduce interest rates."

Two new surveys show that, although confidence is dropping and fears of recession rising, business and City economists are still deeply divided on what the MPC should do on interest rates.

A report yesterday by BDO Stoy Hayward and the Centre for Economics and Business Research, which compiles the results of all the leading business surveys, found that British business now believes that the economy is on the brink of recession with growth forecast to drop to 0.4 per cent by the middle of next year.

Douglas McWilliams, chief executive of CEBR, said that the MPC may want to wait for another month's figures before taking action on rates, noting that, "coincidentally, this would be

around the time of the Labour Party conference".

Another survey published today by the Society of Business Economists finds that one in five business economists believes that recession next year is more likely than not.

However, the view on rates is mixed. Of 140 economists polled, 49 per cent favour an immediate cut in base rates with 14 per cent of those arguing that rates need to be lowered by 0.5 points or more.

However, 44 per cent believe that the MPC should keep interest rates on hold this month and 7 per cent are arguing for a rise in rates.

Despite disagreement on the immediate outlook, a large majority of 73 per cent believes that rates will be cut before the end of this year by between 0.25 percentage points and 0.5 percentage points.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	5344.2 (-2.8)
Yield	3.09%
FTSE All Share	5472.2 (+5.02)
Nikkei	14913.49 (+123.43)
New York	7867.34 (+227.09)
Dow Jones	7867.34 (+227.09)
S&P Composite	950.43 (+25.54)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/4% (unch)
Long bond	10 3/4% (unch)
Yield	5.33%

LONDON MONEY

3-month interbank	7 1/4% (7 3/4%)
Libor long gilt	112.28 (112.62)

STERLING

New York	1.6585* (unch)
London	—
DM	1.8574 (1.8681)
DM	2.8656 (2.8762)
Sfr	3.4100 (3.5294)
Sfr	2.3472 (2.3549)
Yen	219.23 (219.78)
S index	102.9 (103.4)

US DOLLAR

London	1.7260* (unch)
DM	5.7880*
Sfr	—
Yen	132.10*
S index	110.3 (109.8)

Tokyo close Yen 131.82

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent15-day(Nov)	\$13.30 (\$13.55)
------------------	-------------------

GOLD

London close	\$285.75 (\$287.25)
--------------	---------------------

* denotes midday trading prices

Rowland named as the new NatWest chairman

BY RICHARD MILES, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

SIR DAVID ROWLAND, credited by many with bringing Lloyd's of London back from the brink of collapse, albeit at great personal cost to thousands of names, is to be the next chairman of NatWest.

His appointment, which was announced yesterday, surprised the City where it was widely expected that Lord Blyth of Rowington, chairman and chief executive of Boots, the high-street retailer, would take up the mantle from Lord Alexander of Weedon when he steps down next April.

Until then, Sir David will be joint deputy chairman, with Sir Sydney Lippworth, on a salary of £200,000. When he becomes chairman, this will double to £400,000, although Sir David will not qualify for the directors' incentive scheme or bonuses.

Lord Alexander said that Sir David, 65, would not be an interim chairman, even though the bank requires board directors to retire at 70. "It is clearly intended that he will serve at least three years."

Sir David, who gained a reputation for ruthlessness at Lloyd's, said he was "deighted" to succeed Lord Alexander. He will continue to devote two-and-a-half days a week to NatWest. While at Lloyd's, Sir

David oversaw the introduction of corporate investors and was accused by many names of disregarding their interests.

Both Sir David and Lord Blyth joined the bank's board as non-executive directors last April. Lord Blyth said yesterday: "I effectively ruled myself out because I could not be available until the back end of 1999, or early 2000. The last thing you want is a sort of interregnum."

Since Lord Alexander became chairman nine years ago, the NatWest board has shrunk from 31 to 15 directors. Yesterday, the bank announced also that Sir Dick Evans, chairman of British Aerospace, would join the board in October. Lord Hurd of Westwell, the former Conservative foreign secretary, and Sir George Quigley will leave the board in April.

Although Lord Alexander, 62, is stepping down, he is unlikely to retire. He is chancellor of Exeter University and chairs a select committee in the House of Lords.

Some banking analysts expressed disappointment that Lord Blyth had not been named as chairman, but said there were more important issues surrounding the issue of who would succeed Sir David.

Commentary, page 25



Named: Sir David Rowland, centre, with Lord Alexander of Weedon, NatWest's out-going chairman, left, and Derek Wanless, chief executive

NON-STOP

Only one airline has an exclusive lounge at Heathrow for all its UK Business Class passengers.

British Midland
The Airline for Europe

P&O launches duty-paid plan

BY FRASER NELSON

P&O is planning to open three large duty-paid drink, cigarettes and perfume stores in France in an attempt to defend its ferry business from the abolition of duty-free shopping due next year.

The company believes that European authorities are close to replacing duty-free shops with a system where ferry companies can sell goods bought at normal overseas prices in any EU country.

It plans to open retail outlets in Calais, Le Havre and Cherbourg which will sell low-cost, but duty-paid goods to passengers doing last-minute shopping before returning home.

Lord Sterling of Plaistow,

chairman, said: "We'll be selling to customers coming back on board the ship. It won't totally replace everything that we lose, but we will be able to mitigate that loss."

He added that the European Commission is late in confirming what will replace the duty-free system — which is due to be abolished in June next year.

P&O had avoided set up any port shops before because of opposition from French authorities. But they, too, are concerned about losing custom from duty-free shopping and are giving ferry operators greater leeway to set up shop.

P&O cruises, page 24

Telewest a contender for FTSE

BRITAIN'S second-largest cable company, Telewest Communications, yesterday completed a last-minute share conversion which is almost certain to ensure its elevation into the FTSE 100 index today (Matthew Barbour writes).

The loss-making company, which completed its £649 million merger with General Cable on Monday, managed to convert 469 million preference shares into ordinary shares, increasing its market value by £685 million. The move was announced hours before the 4.30pm deadline at which FTSE International decides the make-up of the index by the value of the candidates' ordinary, not preference, shares.

Rolls unveils £960m orders

BY ADAM JONES

ROLLS-ROYCE, the UK aero-engine group, made its mark at the Farnborough International Air Show yesterday by announcing orders worth up to \$1.59 billion (£960 million).

Rolls, as sole engine supplier to the new Airbus A340, was an automatic beneficiary of orders for the four-engine plane publicised yesterday.

Emirates, the Middle East airline, confirmed that it is taking up to 16 A340-500s — as six firm orders and ten options to buy. The deal could be worth \$640 million to Rolls if Emirates takes up all the options.

Rolls will also supply Trent 500 engines for up to ten A340s ordered yesterday by the Inter-

national Lease Finance Corporation. The Rolls AE 3007 engine has also been chosen for up to 150 Embraer jets ordered by American Eagle, sister company of American Airlines. Orders were taken from other airlines for ERJ-range engines.

The total basic value of orders unveiled by Rolls yesterday — excluding options — is \$920 million, it said. Rolls also said it has six partners on the Trent 500 engine programme as risk- and revenue-shares.

Boeing unveiled an order from Varig, the Latin American airline, for up to 39 airliners — 737s, 767s and 777s — reportedly worth up to \$2.7 billion.

Hillsdown demerger brings bill for £50m

BY ROBERT COLE CITY CORRESPONDENT

HILLSDOWN Holdings, the troubled food group, will incur restructuring charges of almost £50 million as a result of the three-way demerger and asset sale programme it is undertaking.

The costs, equivalent to about 6p a share, represent another blow to hard-pressed shareholders who have seen the value of their shares dwindle over a long period. About £25 million of the costs are in professional fees with tax accounting for £20 million.

The scale of the costs emerged as Hillsdown set a firm date of October 5 for the demerger of Terranova, its chilled foods segment, and for Fairview New Homes, the housebuilder. However, there was no concrete news on the series of asset sales that analysts hope will raise £750 million.

The asset sales are designed to pay down about £200 million of debt, and then finance a capital redistribution.

Michael Teacher, chief executive, said that the capital distribution could be undertaken in two tranches. Most of the asset sales were expected to be completed by the end of the year allowing for one distribution but disposal of the poultry side has been deferred until trading improves.

Pre-tax profits for the six months to June 30 fell from £56.9 million to £52.1 million. The interim dividend is raised from 2.2p to 2.25p.

Temps page 26

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Main table containing unit trust prices, organized by fund name, price, and change. Includes various categories like Equity, Bond, and Money Market funds.

FREE OFFER Discover How You Could Make Serious Money From Penny Shares. Includes details about the offer and contact information.

CALL NOW ON FREEPHONE 0500 823873. Approved by The Stock Exchange Ltd. Includes details about the service.



السوق المالية

Equities lose early lead

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E. Includes sections: ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS, ELECTRICITY, ELECTRONIC & ELECT, BUILDING MATERIALS, CHEMICALS, CONSTRUCTION, DISTRIBUTORS, ENGINEERING VEHICLES.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E. Includes sections: FOOD MANUFACTURERS, HEALTHCARE, HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT, INSURANCE, INVESTMENT TRUSTS.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E. Includes sections: LEISURE & HOTELS, MEDIA, SHORTS (under 5 years), LONGS (over 15 years), UNDATED, MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years), INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of 5%.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E. Includes sections: MINING, OIL & GAS, OTHER FINANCIAL, PHARMACEUTICALS, RETAILERS FOOD, RETAILERS GENERAL, SUPPORT SERVICES.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E. Includes sections: PRINTING & PAPER, PROPERTY, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORT, WATER, ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E. Includes sections: ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS, ELECTRICITY, ELECTRONIC & ELECT, BUILDING MATERIALS, CHEMICALS, CONSTRUCTION, DISTRIBUTORS, ENGINEERING VEHICLES.

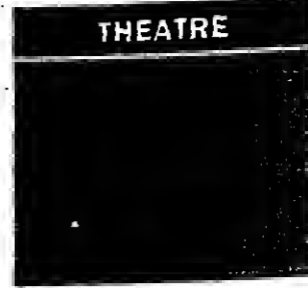
Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E. Includes sections: FOOD MANUFACTURERS, HEALTHCARE, HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT, INSURANCE, INVESTMENT TRUSTS.

WITHDRAWN logo with a large 'X' and text: 'If an ad misleads, we're here to stamp it out. Advertising Standards Authority. 2, Terence Place, London WC1E 7TH. 0171 580 3555. info@asa.org.uk ASA'

rsity



THE TIMES ARTS



Britain's top tenor faces his Everest

OPERA: After a stunning summer David Rendall now sings Otello for the first time. He talks to Hilary Finch

If you want to track down the real fourth — or maybe fifth — tenor, go no further than London WC2 this week. The English tenor sought after by the likes of Karajan, Bernstein and Barenboim is singing his first Otello in a new production of Verdi's opera which opens at English National Opera on Friday.

Even as David Rendall was learning the role — a defining moment in any tenor's career — he was answering emergency calls throughout the summer. He stepped in for an indisposed Faust in the Berlioz epic at the First Night of the Proms; then took over *Simon Boccanegra* both at Glyndebourne and in the Albert Hall. Each last-minute performance gained standing ovations.

"You just have to keep going," he says. "If you stop you are in trouble. One day it was stage and orchestra rehearsal for *Otello* from 10.30am to 1.30pm; stage and piano from 2.30pm to 5.30pm; then *Boccanegra* at the Proms at 7pm. At least it was all Verdi."

But now Rendall is taking it easy. "Just Otello! It's a daunting thought. It's not a hurdle; it's a huge wall you have to scale, and not fall down the other side. And you know that everyone out there will be watching. The music is so glo-

riously written for the voice. That's the easy part. There are no blockbusting arias. Like there are for Iago and Desdemona. It's more a string of

"The role of Otello is not so much a hurdle for the tenor; more like a huge wall"

wonderful soliloquies. At one point everything is murmured on a single A flat, with the orchestra pulsing along underneath. There's a sense of that great soul and that heart pounding away in a vast emptiness.

The difficulties, of course, start with the psychology of the man. How does Rendall begin to get inside the mind and heart of the Moor who loved not wisely but too well?

"That's the real challenge. And being black... that as well. Life experience does help. I'm glad I'm doing the role when I'm more or less Otello's own age, rather than in my thirties. On the other hand,

I've never been a slave. But then, maybe I have, in other ways: a slave to life, to my family, to my work."

For Rendall, the study of Otello's own racial awareness doesn't start and end with blacking up. He has recently discovered that his great-great grandfather married a Native Canadian. So he has North American Indian blood coursing through his veins.

Race apart, though, who is Verdi's Otello? Boito, his librettist, emphasised the importance of his appearing as a hero first, a lover second. "Yes. And he was only ever able to love one person. He's a general; he's lucid, he's disciplined, he's fair. It's not knowing, not having the answer which finally brings him down. He won't judge Desdemona until he has proof. But if he finds there is guilt, that will be the end. And as a military man, it won't bother him to kill. He will do it if necessary."

What does it feel like, having to kill? "Cold. It's just done. Only when Otello realises that he has been completely taken in, that he is the fool, only then does emotion enter and give him the courage to take his own life. Instantly."

Rendall, too, is a clear thinker. Otello, it seems, is yet another right role in the right place at the right time. The suc-



At the sharp end: David Rendall dressing for the title-role in Verdi's *Otello*, which he sings at the Coliseum on Friday

cess with which he has paced the 25 years of his career — from early Donizetti and Mozart to Wagner, with Erik and Lohengrin, and on to Loge,

maybe even Parsifal — must be the envy of most singers. Rendall seems unusually aware and in touch with his voice. "I haven't had a lot of singing lessons, but I've worked with good coaches — and, best of all, a tape recorder. Domingo always says that all the great singing teachers are dead, and that's where they should stay."

But there were mentors on

the way. Conductors, mainly — Daniel Barenboim, Eric Leinsdorf, Leonard Bernstein. "Musicians who knew and said clearly what they wanted. Leinsdorf taught me to look into words for their colour; Barenboim always saw us as just a part of the whole. He'd have no truck with unruly individual egos." And Bernstein? What did he tell Rendall? "Funny stories. We were doing the

opening concert of the Vienna Festival, and latecomers were tricking in. Everyone was tense. Bernstein leant forward to us and said: "Pssst! Two Jews are walking through Central Park. One says: 'Spring in the air!' The other says, 'Why should I?' He then raised his baton. 'Now we'll begin!'"

● *Otello* opens on Friday at the Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (071-432 8300)

Youth into the bargain

Something extraordinarily positive happens when, as in British Youth Opera's new production of *Costi fan tuze*, a talented young cast holds a capacity audience captive. And it is even better when that audience has paid no more for its tickets than the price of going to a local cinema.

Alas, such positiveness needs to be tempered by the reality of British operatic life. Will the powers that be ensure that there are companies for these artists to sing with in the future, and if so, will the performances be affordable?

These low prices might have enabled BYO to offer more adventurous repertory in its short season (*Costi* is playing in tandem with *La Bohème*). But student singers need experience of the standard works, and all six principals in the Mozart are likely to perform their roles many times again. And though producers often have difficulty finding new things to say about popular operas, after *Costi* at Glyndebourne this summer anything



would have been interesting. Still, Mark Tinkler's staging of the opening scenes gives the impression of a director trying too hard. In looking for a "concept", he has set the opera in a nameless institution, evoked by the designer Annabel Lee with metallic grey walls, metal furniture and gadgets such as CCTV cameras.

The clinical setting is far removed from the music's sensuous Neapolitan atmosphere, and in Act I most of the gags seem to be imposed on the piece. But ultimately Tinkler respects the dark humour of the text itself. As the situation in Act II gets more serious, things turn very nasty: the finale, which is snarled through clenched teeth, has rarely seemed more angry.

Under its music director, Timothy Dean, BYO's standards get ever more professional. He is a conductor who really understands young singers, and even if this performance began a little too fast for the comfort of the fine orchestra, things soon settled down to a brisk but natural flow. Almost every word of Anne Ridler's translation came across.

Showing perhaps the most potential of a very even cast, Louise Innes is an excellent Dorabella. She has stage presence, and her full-toned mezzo makes the lighter sister's Act II aria a musical highlight. As Fiordiligi, Olivia Keen displays a bright soprano, secure in the treacherous *Per pietà*.

Darren Abrahams, the Ferrando, has a neat tenor, and Mary Stone's Guglielmo boasts a dark, focused baritone. Allison Cook is a deliciously cheeky Despina, and Andrew Foster does Don Alfonso a favour by singing all the notes. His portrayal may not have the hard-bitten edge more mature singers bring to the part, but it is a valid interpretation.

JOHN ALLISON

GREAT easyJet FLIGHTS OFFER



12 EUROPEAN CITIES FROM JUST £34 RETURN

Today *The Times* offers readers incredible savings to 12 European cities for under £60 return with easyJet. A price and destination chart will appear again tomorrow. This fantastic offer is for up to two people travelling together and you can go between October 25, 1998 and March 24, 1999, except flights to Madrid which begin on January 6. All prices are single or return fares per person and include all UK and foreign airport taxes. Full terms and conditions and exclusion dates appeared on Monday with the detailed timetable. They will be published again on September 29 or access <http://times.easyjet.com> for full details.

You can book by telephone or via the Internet. A special telephone number and website password will be published on September 29. Until then, no bookings for this offer will be accepted on any other easyJet number/website.

There are also great savings on car hire, travel insurance and hotels, plus a reduction of up to £11.90 with Thameslink trains to Luton airport. See full details on September 29.



TOUR THE CANALS OF AMSTERDAM

HOW TO TAKE UP THE OFFER

- Collect 21, differently numbered tokens, 18 from *The Times* and three from *The Sunday Times*.
 - 28 tokens in total will be published in *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* up to October 3.
 - Attach your tokens to the booking validation form (another will appear in Weekend on Saturday) which you will need to present when you check in for your outward journey.
- easyJet is a ticketless airline. Once your booking has been processed you will be issued with a confirmation number which is all you require, along with your booking validation form and tokens, and passport for international travel.

BOOKING OPENS SEPTEMBER 29



GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

TOM CAWLEY

Age: 22. Born Derby, raised Lincoln. He's a diehard Lincoln City supporter.

Profession: Jazz pianist. He has just been named winner of this year's "Louis", otherwise known as the Royal & Sun Alliance Young Jazz Musician of the Year award.

Are his musical influences as distinctive? Yes, he's a big fan of the late Phineas Newborn, an obscure but phenomenally talented American pianist. And apart from being obsessed with John Coltrane — like every musician of his age — Cawley is a fan of Cannonball Adderley.

Not to mention Herbie Hancock: He played one of his tunes. *One Finger Snap*.

at the Young Jazz Musician of the Year final.

Has he always had his heart set on playing jazz? No. He was a Chopin and Liszt man first, at one point studying at the renowned Chetham's School in Manchester (until 13, then he dropped out).

Any working musicians, jazz or otherwise, in the family? "No, but my Dad, who's an architect, has a really good record collection with lots of Miles and Coltrane. Well, not now he hasn't — most of them are in my flat."

What else pushed him in the jazz direction? The improvising bug really took over after Cawley opted for jazz studies in his degree



course at the Royal Academy of Music. "That's where I thought I'd meet the most creative, and the most stoic, musicians."

And he enjoys pop too? Yes, but the older quality stuff: Stevie Wonder, for example.

When can we hear him next? He hopes to take his trio to Ronnie Scott's shortly as part of his "Louis" prize.

CLIVE DAVIS

MONET IN THE 20TH CENTURY: PAINTING OF THE DAY

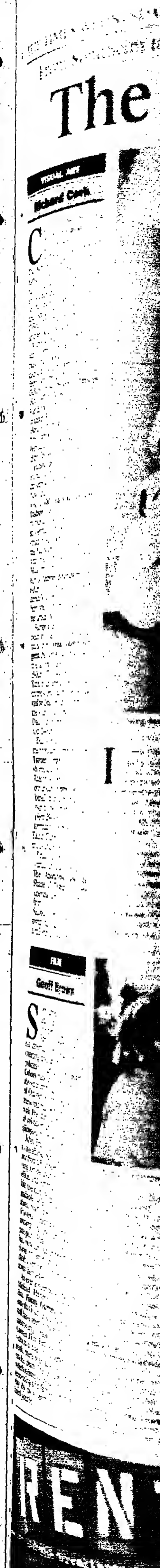
Each day this week Richard Cork selects outstanding paintings from the forthcoming Royal Academy show.

TODAY: The Grand Canal Monet's infatuation with water and sunlight was bound to attract him to Venice. He travelled there in October 1908, eager to study its changing luminosity at different times. Like Manet, he was especially successful at tackling the Grand Canal. Adopting a low viewpoint he contrasts the diagonal thrust of the foreground poles with the rotundity of the dome beyond. Meanwhile, distant buildings melt in the soft Venetian light as their reflections vibrate in the burning water.

● Times readers have priority booking access to 50,000 tickets for the Royal Academy's *Monet in the 20th Century* exhibition (Jan 23 to April 19), sponsored by Ernst & Young. Telephone Firstcall (0870 842 2200, booking fee £1.50 per ticket on first five tickets, £1.40 thereafter)



MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, BOSTON



LISTINGS

Rigg as Phèdre

ARTS

TOMORROW

Private Ryan reviewed

Antics mar the melody

East meets West in song

As the world gets smaller, so our experience of all manner of human artistic endeavour is broadening: multiculturalism is the order of the day. There could scarcely be anything more multicultural than Peter Sellars's production of the classical Chinese epic drama Peony Pavilion...



Janacek tops a Czech bill in Birmingham

LONDON COSI FAN TUTTI: The hope of Britain's operatic future, British Youth Opera, offers further proof of quality and commitment in its second production of this season, a fully staged version of Mozart's light-hearted look at the respective weaknesses of the two sexes. See review, page 20.

ELSEWHERE BRIMMINGHAM: The Czech Philharmonic Orchestra returns to one of its favourite haunts with a concert dominated by music from its homeland, Charles Mackerras conducts Janacek's suite from the Cunning Little Valse and Dvorak's Eighth Symphony...

NEW WEST END SHOWS Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London. House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT: First production of the Steam industry's co-called Discipline Season. Peter Waldman directs a large cast in Rodney Ackland's version of Dostoevsky's Fimbrough (0171-373 3842).

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

NEW RELEASES Geoff Brown's choice of the latest movies. CARRESES: Riveted Spanish film about unsatisfactory love from kidnapping director Ventura Pons...

The roots of this particular version stem from Sellars's first visit to China almost 20 years ago. Fresh out of college, he saw the opera in Shanghai and experienced a 400-year-old tradition of musical performance.



'Sellars became obsessed with Peony Pavilion' spiritual pollution and couldn't be performed. And here they were in the United States, both deeply concerned with the future of Chinese culture, each from their own point of view.

First, Tan Dun cleared out 19th-century accretions from the existing score and Hua said it should have happened 50 years ago. 'While I was obsessed with the Shakespearean connections, Tan Dun said: 'no, it's Monteverdi', which of course was the moment opera was being invented in the West.



New interpretation: Hua Wenyi as Du Liang in the Sellars staging of Peony Pavilion

Deserving a better crowd

LIVE mainstream jazz is an interactive art in which ideally - performers and listeners encourage each other. An audience barely into double figures, such as the one at this performance by husband-and-wife team Danny Moss and Jeanie Lamb...

JAZZ Danny Moss Pizza on the Park. strictly speaking a visitor to the UK since his emigration to Perth in 1989, raised not so much as an eyebrow...

ty and rhythmic subtlety, producing a wonderfully relaxed, full, almost fruity sound that floats easily over the rhythm section...

ART GALLERIES

SUMMER EXHIBITION Modern British & New Work Last Week, 25th Oct Selected Paintings Michael Parkin Gallery 11 Macclesfield St, SW1 2SS 0144 4784131

THEATRES

APOLLO, Stratford-upon-Avon 24th Oct 0171 824 8724 444 (big box) Gps 0171 494 5634 BEAULIEU

THEATRES

COMEDY 0171 368 7221 0171 344 4444 THE REAL INSPECTOR HOUND

THEATRES

DURHAM 0171 404 5075 or 0171 420 0000 (big box) Gps 0171 484 5454 BELINDA LANG

THEATRES

NATIONAL THEATRE 0171 452 3000 0171 452 3010 0171 452 3020

THEATRES

PRINCE EDWARD 0171 447 5400 First Out 0171 452 0260

THEATRES

SAVOY THEATRE 0171 836 8800 0171 344 4444 BOOGE NIGHTS

THEATRES

STAND THEATRE Box Office 0171 836 8800 0171 344 4444

THEATRES

VICTORIA PALACE 0171 834 1277 Performance from Dec 22, Opene Sept 30

Advertisement for CLOSERS featuring 'BEST NEW PLAY', 'BEST COMEDY', 'BEST PLAY', 'BEST WEST END PLAY'. Includes contact information for advertising in The Times theatre listings.

TO ADVERTISE CALL: 0171 481 1986 (TRADE) 0171 481 4000 (PRIVATE)

PROPERTY

FAX: 0171 782 7828 (TRADE) 0171 782 7799 (PRIVATE)

NORTH OF THE THAMES

WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor...

CITY & WEST END

WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor...

FULHAM

WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor...

KENSINGTON & CHELSEA

WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor...

MAYFAIR

WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor...

BERKSHIRE

WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor...

NEW HOMES

WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor...

CITY, DOCKLANDS & EAST

WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor...

LONDON EC4

WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor...

HAMPSTEAD

WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor...

HIGHBURY/ISLINGTON

WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor...

MAYFAIR

WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor...

BRISTOL

WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor...

BEDFORDSHIRE

WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor...

FULHAM

WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor...

KENSINGTON & CHELSEA

WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor...

KENSINGTON & CHELSEA

WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor...

NEW HOMES

WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor...

SOUTH OF THE THAMES

WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor...

BATTERSEA

WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor...

COUNTRY HILL

WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor...

PENHOSE

WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor...

CAMBERWELL

WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor...

BELGRAVIA

WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor...

GATTON PLACE

WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor...

WATTON TERRACE

WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor...

CITY & WEST END

WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor...

CITY/EC4

WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor...

CLEVERLY

WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor...

EC1

WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor...

ST JAMES'S PARK

WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor...

ST JAMES'S PARK

WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor...

ST JAMES'S PARK

WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor...

ST JAMES'S PARK

WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor...

ST JAMES'S PARK

WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor...

ST JAMES'S PARK

WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor...

ST JAMES'S PARK

WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor...

ST JAMES'S PARK

WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor...

ST JAMES'S PARK

WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor...

ST JAMES'S PARK

WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor...

ST JAMES'S PARK

WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor...

ST JAMES'S PARK

WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor...

ST JAMES'S PARK

WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor...

ST JAMES'S PARK

WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor...

ST JAMES'S PARK

WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor...

ST JAMES'S PARK

WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor... WAPPING 2 bedrooms 1st floor...

Preview advertisement for a property in Clerkenwell Central, EC1. Includes a map and contact information for Lane Fox.

Point West Kensington advertisement. Features a large photograph of a modern interior and text describing 'Five star living from £225,000'. Contact information for Regalian is provided.

Bewley Homes advertisement. Features three photographs of properties: Barnes Gate, Green Mews, and another property. Lists features like luxury kitchens, double ovens, and garaging. Contact information is provided.

St James Park advertisement. Features a large photograph of a grand building and text describing 'Imagine this kind of Elegance'. Lists features like fine selection of detached houses, 5 acres of gardens, and proximity to Waterloo. Contact information for Hamptons is provided.

Vertical text on the left edge of the page, including 'TOMORROW' and 'ng mar d melo'.

TO ADVERTISE CALL: 0171 481 1986 (TRADE) 0171 481 4000 (PRIVATE)

FAX: 0171 782 7828 (TRADE) 0171 782 7799 (PRIVATE)

PROPERTY



New apartments to be released 1st October 1998

The City Quay is a unique marina side development of 1, 2 and 3 bedroom apartments and penthouses located on the edge of The City within the exclusive St. Katharine Docks. Genuinely spacious, all apartments are south or west facing with large terraces or balconies and marina views.

- High level of specification. Built-in kitchens with AEG appliances. Private landscaped gardens. Secure underground parking. 24 hour security. 999 year leases. Prices from £250,000.

TAYLOR WOODROW CAPITAL DEVELOPMENTS

FPDSavills

Sales & Lettings 0171 496 6000

For further information and to register on our priority list please call the on-site sales office on 0171 481 9898 or fax on 0171 481 0364, email: stephen.edwards@taywood.co.uk

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Swoffers GUERNSEY'S LARGEST CHOICE As a result of being clear market leader, we have the best selection of homes for new residents. For colour details and our Quarterly Newcomer write to Swoffers, Ltd., Place St. Peter Port, Tel: 01481 711766 Fax: 01481 714291 or e-mail sales@swoffers.co.uk

The finest GUERNSEY PROPERTY Lovells offer the widest choice of property in the Islands. For more details simply request our colour property portfolio. LOVELLS ST PETER PORT, GUERNSEY, GY1 4BA. Tel: 01481 723434, Fax: 01481 713464.

FRANCE

ALPES Provence du Sahel. Luxe des chalets à deux étages avec vue sur l'Alpe. 1.850.000 (01753) 871407. BERTANY SW Detached cottage with 1 acre. Good condition. £12.950.000 (01903) 840764. BRY Without compromise. Front terrace, sea view, perfect condition, real estate opportunity to your domain. Fax (01) 4 67 63 83 19, or write to Le Partenaire Européen 34207 Montparnasse Cedex 15, France. CAP FERRAT Mediterranean property, fantastic sea view, perfect condition, landscaped garden. Price: 16.000.000. 0197. Worcester property 400 sqm 95.000.000. 0197. Sole agent: Homequest Group, specialist in real estate & sea view properties. Tel: 0033 4 92 00 49 49 or Fax: 0033 4 92 99 40 88.

COSTA MEDITERRANEA

BEAUTIFUL 3 bedroom detached house, 17 years old, built in 1981, set in a superb location. The property is in excellent condition. The house has a large garden, swimming pool, and is close to the sea. Price: £180,000. Tel: 01753 841981.

CHAMBERLAIN

CHAMBERLAIN 3 bedroom detached house, 17 years old, built in 1981, set in a superb location. The property is in excellent condition. The house has a large garden, swimming pool, and is close to the sea. Price: £180,000. Tel: 01753 841981.

DORSET

DORSET 3 bedroom detached house, 17 years old, built in 1981, set in a superb location. The property is in excellent condition. The house has a large garden, swimming pool, and is close to the sea. Price: £180,000. Tel: 01753 841981.

FREE TICKETS

FREE TICKETS to World of Property. D&G's largest overseas property exhibition. Tel: 01753 841981.

PROVENCE

PROVENCE 3 bedroom detached house, 17 years old, built in 1981, set in a superb location. The property is in excellent condition. The house has a large garden, swimming pool, and is close to the sea. Price: £180,000. Tel: 01753 841981.

RETIREMENT HOMES

English Courtyard have a limited number of luxury retirement houses & flats available at: Long Melford, Suffolk - Ilminster, Somerset. Tattenhall, Cheshire - Dunchurch, Warwickshire. Prices from £97,000 to £255,000. Freephone 0800 228858 quoting ref RS3. 2 Holland Street, English Courtyard, London E14 4JL.

OVERSEAS PROPERTY

BUYING ABROAD? The Autumn overseas property exhibition: The Cumberland Hotel, Marble Arch, London W1. Friday 11th, Saturday 12th, Sunday 13th September 1998. Friday 1200 - 1800 Sat/Sun 1030 - 1700. Over 50 top Agents and Developers from Spain and the Balearics, the Canaries, Gibraltar, Greece, Portugal, France, Italy, Cyprus, Crete, Florida, the Caribbean will be displaying their properties. Or visit The Shelbourne Hotel in Dublin on October 10 and 11 when we host our first exhibition in Ireland. THE INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY SHOW Tel: 01420 520 777 FREE Admission

TIMESHARE OVERSEAS

PRIMESHARE Private Sales. Thousands more low-priced offers. High Season Exchange - call for details. Tel: 01473 830083 Fax: 01473 833388. Internet info: www.primeshare.com

Exclusive Cotswold retirement, close to the dreaming spires. The Playing Close, Charlbury, Oxfordshire. Secure and spacious cottages and apartments, close to shops. Landscaped gardens and swimming pavilion. Other cottages and apartments at: Thames Bank, Coring-on-Thames, Oxfordshire. The Orchard, Fairford, Gloucestershire and other counties in the south of England. £125,000 - £350,000. BEECHCROFT CLASSIC COUNTRY HOMES (01491) 834975

FORTHCOMING 1998 PROPERTY SUPPLEMENTS THE SUNDAY TIMES. 20th September, 27th September, 4th October. For further information & deadlines, please call the Property team on 0171 481 1986. Property Continued from Page 34

An elegant new home for the price of a flat NWS. Only 2 miles from the heart of London! Old Dairy News. Tel: 0171 753 3333

alternatives. It is a choice that runs from one bedroom apartments to six bedroom detached homes in rural and urban locations. It is a choice that runs from one bedroom apartments to six bedroom detached homes in rural and urban locations. It is a choice that runs from one bedroom apartments to six bedroom detached homes in rural and urban locations. Tel: 0800 980 9833

TO ADVERTISE CALL 0171 680 6800. Your mind the power to lift. HOTLINE 0171 753 3333. RETAKES OF CATS. 0171 753 3333

Rob Hughes sets the scene for a sporting jamboree in Kuala Lumpur

Friendly Games offer welcome to all who play fair

THE greatest contest of the next two weeks, when 6,000 athletes from 68 countries contest the Commonwealth Games in this sultry Malaysian city, involves ourselves. We simply have to suspend our disbelief...



ones, as David Beckham reportedly did to his Spice Girl from an England camp in Georgia last year. Nor will Audley Harrison, a 17-stone Londoner with the bravery of a boxing super-heavyweight and the intelligence of a sociology graduate...

for gold in the cricket and for a vast pool of 100 medals from their prowess at swimming and others, we sense this is a full-scale rehearsal for their 2,000 Olympic Games. In a place where the heat will try those of us from colder climes, and where the back-to-back opulence and abject poverty shrieks out against reason...



A technician checks an underwater television cable in the Bukit Jalil aquatic centre pool while swimmers practise above

Smog fears are eased by storms

FROM CRAIG LORD

THE ferocious electrical storms that have swept through Kuala Lumpur every afternoon for the past week are set to continue throughout much of September, according to official forecasts, easing fears that pollution will hinder competitors.

tres freestyle title here. Dave Champion, her coach, said: "Karen has had no trouble so we're hoping the storms will last. We were worried after warnings that it would be like a curtain of smog out here. But the rain seems to be washing it away just in time."

Morgan out to bank gold

FROM RICHARD EATON

KELLY MORGAN must be one of the most improbable favourites for a gold medal there has been. Once so short of funds that she had to base herself in France and Denmark to keep her badminton career going...

she had before this year," Chris Rees, her coach, said. Reaching the final of the European championships in Sofia in April helped to boost both Morgan's bank balance and her confidence.

COMMONWEALTH GAMES SCHEDULE

Table with 2 columns: TODAY and TOMORROW. Lists various sports events and their start times.

Scotland aim to make impression

BY KEVIN EASON

MINNOWS mix with the sharks of world cricket today as the sport makes its debut at the Commonwealth Games. While most of the teams were last night wondering whether they could complete their opening games in the stormy conditions affecting the eight grounds chosen around Kuala Lumpur, Jim Love, the Scotland coach, was contemplating a first match for his team against Pakistan.



Australia must manage without McGrath, left, and Warne



"We will have our work cut out, but we're not here to be a minor irritation to anyone. We know we're not a main sport in Scotland, compared to football and rugby, but our recent results have helped nurture more interest and this and the World Cup can focus that support. It was their decision but it would have been nice to see England here and I'm disappointed they're not."

absence in group D, where they meet the diverse talents of South Africa, Barbados and Bangladesh. But the quality of even the proven sides in Kuala Lumpur is questionable with few of the leading teams willing to field full sides for the limited-overs tournament. Australia, with the Waugh brothers and Ricky Ponting, are favourites.

Viv Richards, and include Richie Richardson and Curtly Ambrose. "We hear Australia and India are the gold medal favourites, but they have to beat us first," Richards said. The question yesterday, though, was whether anyone would get to play, as Kuala Lumpur was engulfed in a tropical downpour, forcing Sachin Tendulkar, the India batsman, to practice with a tennis ball under the overhanging pavilion roof of the TNB Sports Club.

Souyave pitched into controversy

FROM CATHY HARRIS

MAGGIE SOUYAVE, the England coach, displayed admirable diplomatic skills when she deflected comments describing the women as second-class citizens on the eve of the inaugural hockey tournament yesterday.

the impressive men's national stadium, there has also been strong criticism of the quality of the pitch. Souyave admitted there could be problems at penalty corners and shooting at goal because of an uneven bounce

is a distinct difference here and the facilities are far better for the men," she said. Ric Charlesworth, coach of Australia, the world and Olympic champions and favourites to capture the gold medal, has been lobbying for the semi-finals and finals to be moved to the national stadium.

Crutchley in scoring mood

BOB CRUTCHLEY, who proved his fitness by scoring twice in a 3-0 victory over New Zealand here, is in the England men's hockey side for the pool B match with Canada today. Danny Hall, a standby forward, returned home last night.

manager, said yesterday that the England players were optimistic but knew Canada would be hard to beat, even though England got the better of them by 2-1 in the World Cup. Canada have been forced into changes because of a crop of injuries, the latest to drop out being the inside forward Marek Cisek, who gives way to Ranjiv Deol, a member of the Reading team last season.

England can expect tough opposition from the host nation, who have shown up well in practice matches with Australia but the big test will come against the new-look Pakistan team on September 16. Pakistan and England seem most likely to qualify for the semi-finals from this pool.

ROWING

Haining breezes past his rivals

FROM MIKE ROSEWELL IN COLOGNE

IN THEIR long and successful careers, both in the pairs and the fours, Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent have always followed the philosophy that preliminary races should be won. Even if the top two or three crews in a race are due to qualify, Britain's stars would go for first. Redgrave was not racing in the world championships here yesterday but his example was followed as six of the seven British crews finished first in their repechages to gain progress to semi-finals and finals.

Britain's three scullers started the winning trend as Peter Haining, Greg Searle and Guin Batten spearheaded their repechage heats. Conditions were difficult, not to the dismay of the veteran Haining against more youthful opponents. "The head wind played havoc with the younger lads. I played around with them a bit," he said.

Searle, drawn in the easiest heat, had an even easier passage to the semi-final tomorrow. He left his four opponents for dead from the start, and had little to do from the 400 metre mark. "I am not used to winning after a minute," he said. In the women's sculls, Batten was led to 500 metres by Celine Garcia, of France, her conqueror in the past, but by half-way Batten had the initiative and went on to win with ease.

The lightweight eight made a point to their closest rivals, Italy, by winning by a third of a length. They are still not at their best, however, and Len Robertson, the coach, has three days before the final on Saturday to hone his crew. Simon Goodbrand and Colin Greenaway, in the double sculls, looked smoother than earlier in the season and did their confidence no harm by beating the Free brothers, of Australia, the 1997 world bronze medallists. Steve Williams and Fred Searle, in the coxless pairs, also did well to hold off another leading Australian crew, Mike McKay and Drew Ginn.

Dot Blackie and Cath Bishop qualified for the final of the women's coxless pairs on Saturday, but they were edged out of first place by the 1997 Russian world bronze medallists. "Our row was solid, but nothing extra," said Blackie, after qualifying for her first world final.

Results, page 41

CYCLING

Guidi has edge over Jalabert

FABRIZIO GUIDI, of Italy, won the fourth leg of the Tour of Spain — and the front-runner's yellow jersey yesterday as the overall lead changed hands for the second time in as many days. Guidi, riding for the Polti team, covered the 173.5-kilometre [108-mile] stretch between Malaga and Granada in 4hr 27min 25sec. His efforts enabled him to replace Laurent Jalabert, of France, a member of the ONCE-Deutsche Bank team, as overall leader of the three-week marathon.

Jalabert may not play second fiddle for long, however. He has emerged as the man to beat. Jalabert, now second in the standings, insisted that he did not mind giving up the lead. "It means less stress for me," he said. "I'm happy to let someone else have the pressure of being overall leader for a while." Markus Szberg, a Swiss rider with Post Swiss, is third.

Second place in the day's leg went to Giovanni Lombardi, from Italy, of Telekom, with Jeroen Blijlevens, from Holland, of TVM, in third place. They were both credited with the same time as Guidi. As was the case on Monday, the fourth leg saw a number of breakaway attempts, again by Spanish riders.

Results, page 41

Savill leads against...

of financial...

CONCASTER

2.06

2.06

2.06

2.06

2.06

RACING Savill leads charge against critics of financial plan

BY RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT
IN THE latest skirmish between racing and the bookmakers over the sport's finances, the British Horseracing Board (BHB) yesterday rebutted the criticism of its financial plan contained in a Coopers & Lybrand report commissioned by the betting industry.

The 26-page document is very much the work of Peter Savill, the BHB chairman, and in typically robust style it dismisses the Coopers "critique" as weak, unresearched, inaccurate and unrepresentative - and rebukes the authors for ignoring key points of the plan.

In particular, the BHB highlights how Coopers failed to comment on the low percentage of betting turnover received by racing, the arguments in favour of racing gaining a bigger share, and that racing is financed too much by owners and insufficiently by bookmakers.

The BHB's financial plan, published in January, called for an extra £105 million a year for racing and claimed it would lead to 9,000 extra jobs and £110 million in additional revenue for the Government.

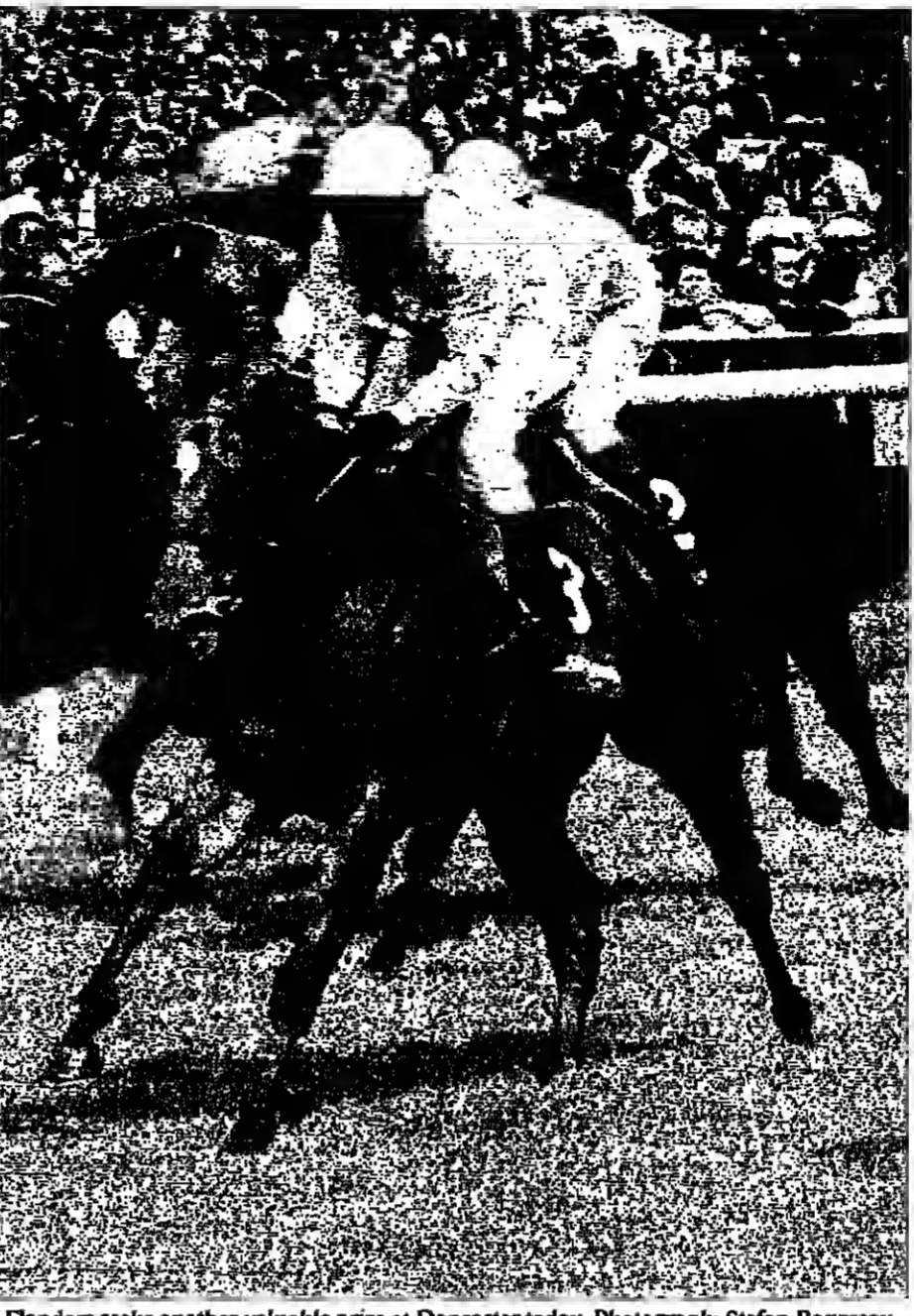
However, the Coopers response, produced in June at the request of the Betting Office Licences' Association (BOLA), said the plan was fundamentally flawed and based on "highly dubious"

arguments which did not stand close analysis. While the BHB's rebuttal yesterday was aimed primarily at confronting head-on such potentially damaging criticism, it served two other purposes. It enabled Savill to restate and, in one vital respect, revise the financial plan's key objectives. Any idea that the Government should fund an £80 million increase in the levy has been removed. Instead, the plan stresses the need for racing to receive a larger share of betting turnover - 3 per cent rather than the present 1.08 per cent - at the bookmakers' expense.

Just as significantly, yesterday's document is an attempt to gain the high ground in the run-up to the levy negotiations between racing and the betting industry which begin shortly. Given the gulf between the BHB and BOLA, Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, will almost certainly be called upon to adjudicate - hence the importance of winning the argument in advance, including the need for fundamental changes to the way racing is financed.

With that in mind, the BHB document concluded yesterday: "Racing has managed to get by on a return from the betting it generates which is derisory by international standards. However, both the Government and the betting industry would be optimistic in assuming that such an unbalanced economy as racing's will continue to support its enviable international status indefinitely.

Tuning at concert pitch for Park Hill



Flanders seeks another valuable prize at Doncaster today. Photograph: Stefan Rousseau

DONCASTER CHANNEL 4

2.05: Qazzenah get off the mark back on fast ground at Folkestone last time, but has shown signs of temperamental. Cappella's cosy Sandown win has been boosted by the Newmarket success of the runner-up, Ingenious, but that horse was ridden very differently there and Cappella steps up in trip. Dreaming is



well fresh. Nuclear Debate will try to pounce later.

3.10: Lavish rewards for a shrewd judge of bloodstock in this race, which is restricted to graduates of the local sale last year. Bargains who stand out at the weights include Monkton Point, who is unproven over a sixth furlong, and My Petal, who has been trained for the race and looks the biggest danger to the class act, Flanders. She kept on gallantly when stepped up to this trip behind the exciting Bint Allayl in the Lowther Stakes at York, though she had a hard race on firm ground there and it might be prudent not to get too carried away by her obvious form chance. Pips & Magic has a squeak for those seeking a big-priced alternative.

3.40: This long, galloping straight looks right up the street of Tunzang, who won the Tote-Ebor in such relentless style. He did not run that well at Nottingham last time, but there were only six runners and he is better in big fields, as he showed when fourth in the King's Stand Stakes on his first start of the season. Any extra cut might help him show his undoubted class. Night Sky is progressing and should prove ideally served by the unusual trip, while Epsom Cyclone goes

well fresh. Nuclear Debate will try to pounce later.

3.40: This long, galloping straight looks right up the street of Tunzang, who won the Tote-Ebor in such relentless style. He did not run that well at Nottingham last time, but there were only six runners and he is better in big fields, as he showed when fourth in the King's Stand Stakes on his first start of the season. Any extra cut might help him show his undoubted class. Night Sky is progressing and should prove ideally served by the unusual trip, while Epsom Cyclone goes

CHRIS McGRATH

DONCASTER RACE LIST: 1.30 Wahoo, 2.05 Yabint El Sham, 2.35 Epsom Cyclone, 3.10 Flanders, 3.40 Tuning, 4.10 Brinning, 4.40 Up At The Top.

THUNDERER RACE LIST: 1.30 Queens Own Yorkshire Draughts, 2.05 Eltham Valley, 2.35 Chief Rebel, 3.10 Tote Jackpot, 4.10 Travelmate.

FORM FOCUS: 2.05 EBF Carrievie Fillies Nursery Handicap. Includes names like Eltham Valley, Chief Rebel, and Tote Jackpot.

FORM FOCUS: 2.35 Tote Trifecta Portland Handicap. Includes names like Catherline, Night Shot, and Resolute.

FORM FOCUS: 3.10 Farinodon Place Mallard Handicap. Includes names like Sweetness Herself, Bitterbit, and Swallow.

COURSE SPECIALISTS: Lists trainers, jockeys, and horses for various courses like Doncaster, Thunders, and Kempton Park.

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD: 3.10 £200,000 ST LEGER YEARLING STAKES. Lists race details, entrants, and odds.

FORM FOCUS: 3.10 £200,000 ST LEGER YEARLING STAKES. Provides analysis and background on the race.

FORM FOCUS: 3.40 CONSTANT SPEED PARK HILL STAKES. Lists entrants and odds for a 3-year-old race.

FORM FOCUS: 4.10 Farinodon Place Mallard Handicap. Lists entrants and odds for a 3-year-old race.

FORM FOCUS: 4.40 Sitwell Arms Stakes. Lists entrants and odds for a 3-year-old race.

FORM FOCUS: 4.40 Sitwell Arms Stakes. Lists entrants and odds for a 3-year-old race.

Backers turn to Sadian in St Leger

PARIS in the fall exerts so magnetic a pull on all points of the racing compass this weekend that the Pertemps St Leger has lost its bearings. The announcement on Monday that Sea Wave, who had seemed to have Saturday's race at his mercy, would instead contest the group two Prix Niel at Longchamp the following day means that the oldest classic no longer even tops the weekend bill.

Mistrusted nowadays as a rival for the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, the St Leger is usurped not only by Swain's appearance in the Irish Champion Stakes at Leopardstown the same afternoon, but also by the three rehearsals over the Longchamp course and distance on Sunday.

Godolphin's substitute runner, Nedawi, is meanwhile able to dominate the remnants of the Doncaster field even though he has yet to step out of group three company. Little wonder that Dark Moonlander was confirmed for the classic yesterday, or that Sadian, who was expensively supplemented when

KEMPTON PARK RACE LIST: 1.45 EBF Maiden Fillies, 2.20 Park Hill, 3.25 2.50 PSL Fillies, 4.40 Sitwell Arms.

FORM FOCUS: 1.45 EBF Maiden Fillies. Lists entrants and odds for a 2-year-old race.

FORM FOCUS: 2.20 Park Hill Handicap. Lists entrants and odds for a 2-year-old race.

FORM FOCUS: 3.25 2.50 PSL Fillies. Lists entrants and odds for a 2-year-old race.

FORM FOCUS: 4.40 Sitwell Arms. Lists entrants and odds for a 3-year-old race.

FORM FOCUS: 3.55 Gearhouse Group Sirenia Stakes. Lists entrants and odds for a 2-year-old race.

FORM FOCUS: 4.25 Proquip-Gearhouse Handicap. Lists entrants and odds for a 2-year-old race.

FORM FOCUS: 4.55 Optiscree Handicap. Lists entrants and odds for a 2-year-old race.

COURSE SPECIALISTS: Lists horses and jockeys for various courses.

COURSE SPECIALISTS: Lists horses and jockeys for various courses.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS: Lists race results and winners.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS: Lists race results and winners.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS: Lists race results and winners.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS: Lists race results and winners.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS: Lists race results and winners.

RACELINE logo with phone number 09066 1684 and website information.

CRICKET: COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON SET FOR GRIPPING CLIMAX

IN BRIEF
Elway and Davis lead champions to success

Durham pace bowlers pose threat to Surrey

By Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: Less than eight months after leading the Denver Broncos to a Super Bowl victory...

SUDDENLY, it is no longer a question of when Surrey will secure the county championship...

CRICKET: COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON SET FOR GRIPPING CLIMAX

TABLE

Table with columns for County, Runs, Wickets, Overs, etc.

REMAINING FIXTURES: Leicestershire Today v Essex (H), Sept 27; v Surrey (A), Surrey Today v Durham (A), Sept 27...

tough nut to crack. In the two years since they last won the title, they have lost only one match.

A calf strain bothering Alan Mullally, who has taken his wickets this season at only 18 apiece, is a serious concern for the leaders.

sively by engaging Muralitharan next season in place of Wasim Akram. The magical, if controversial Sri Lankan has agreed terms for a one-year contract...

Yorkshire, who are showing their most impressive four-day form when it might be no late, are back at Headingley against Warwickshire...



Muralitharan will ply his trade with Lancashire next term

Stewart to lead French campaign

ANOTHER England tour has been scheduled for 1999. After the rigours of Australia and the World Cup, Alec Stewart will lead his side into battle at that well-known region of cricketing excellence, Epernay.



commenting on the petanque international.

Although this tour will take place immediately after the end of the season, every England cricketer who has already been approached, including Angus Fraser and Graeme Hick, has accepted.

The trip has been organised as part of Nasser Hussain's benefit year by Lay & Wheeler, his wine merchant.

New view Mark Nicholas, the Hampshire captain turned commentator, will take some responsibility for the editorial policy of The Cricketer in the wake of Richard Hutton's departure.

Good augury Rachel Heyhoe Flint, the former England captain who will be looking to join MCC after its vote on women members on September 28, has stormed another male bastion.

Jason's travels Jason Barry, who is aiming to become the most travelled sportsman by playing cricket in 100 countries to raise money for international charities, has visited 52 countries since May 1995, covering 350,000 air miles.

Early start Zac Taylor became the youngest debutant in the Northern League at 14 years and four months when he appeared for St Annas against Preston.

Praise be Nottinghamshire have hardly enjoyed the most auspicious of seasons, but have things really becoming this desperate?

History favours the hosts Scotland, also with an experienced team that is probably their strongest for years, will be keen to end a 12-year run without victory.

Early start Zac Taylor became the youngest debutant in the Northern League at 14 years and four months when he appeared for St Annas against Preston.

Praise be Nottinghamshire have hardly enjoyed the most auspicious of seasons, but have things really becoming this desperate?

History favours the hosts Scotland, also with an experienced team that is probably their strongest for years, will be keen to end a 12-year run without victory.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE. BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Have a look at the hand below, and see if you can find the double-dummy lead to beat Six Hearts.

Bridge hand diagram with Dealer South, Love All, Rubber bridge, and card distributions.

The classic standard for an opening Four bid is that it should have seven tricks not vulnerable and eight tricks vulnerable opposite a moderately unhelpful minimum.

KEENE on CHESS. BY RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

White: Viktor Korchnoi Black: Predrag Nikolic Sarajevo 1998

Korchnoi's style Sixty-seven-year-old veteran Viktor Korchnoi has notched up a series of fine tournament successes this year.

Another victory in a powerful field came at the tournament in Sarajevo. Here are examples of Korchnoi's determined style in two games from that event.

White: Viktor Korchnoi Black: Zdenko Kozul Sarajevo 1998

Chess game analysis table with columns for move numbers and piece positions.

RUGBY UNION. Hart still hoping to hold on to New Zealand post

JOHN HART is optimistic that he will remain as the New Zealand coach until the World Cup next year despite the All Blacks suffering their worst losing sequence for half a century.

Hart delivered his end-of-season report to the New Zealand Rugby Football Union yesterday after five consecutive defeats by Australia and South Africa.

"I think my relationship with the players is generally good," Hart said. How his report is received will have a bearing on his future.

Lawrence Dallaglio, who was captain of England last season but missed the tour of the southern hemisphere this summer because of a serious shoulder injury, could return for Wasps in the friendly match against Swansea at Loftus Road on Sunday.

RUGBY LEAGUE: HENRY PAUL LEAVES CENTRAL PARK TO FORM FAMILY PARTNERSHIP

BROTHERS to give Bulls more charge

HENRY PAUL will follow his younger brother Robbie to Bradford Bulls next season. The Pauls, both patriotic New Zealanders, have become high profile figures in rugby league in recent years.

Henry Paul, 24, is out of contract with Wigan Warriors at the end of the season after four successful years at Central Park. Robbie is two years younger and the duo appeared in the victorious New Zealand side against Australia this season and will form an exciting and potent half-back partnership at Odsal.

Paul senior has signed a three-year contract with Bradford but will stay at Wigan until his commitments are ended after the inaugural JJB Super League grand final at Old Trafford on October 24.

England are the hosts for the women's home internationals, which start at Burnham and Berrow in Somerset today, but past performances suggest they will not be in a hospitable mood on the course.

Scotland, also with an experienced team that is probably their strongest for years, will be keen to end a 12-year run without victory.

Scotland, also with an experienced team that is probably their strongest for years, will be keen to end a 12-year run without victory.

Scotland, also with an experienced team that is probably their strongest for years, will be keen to end a 12-year run without victory.

Scotland, also with an experienced team that is probably their strongest for years, will be keen to end a 12-year run without victory.

WORD-WATCHING. By Philip Howard. HODEGETRIA: a. A herbaceous plant...

WINNING MOVE. By Raymond Keene. White to play. This position is from the game Simmons - Faldane...

Brothers to give Bulls more charge. By DAVID BURKE. HENRY PAUL will follow his younger brother Robbie to Bradford Bulls next season.

GOLF

England's home rule facing severe test

By MEL WEBB

ENGLAND, winners for the past five years, look likely to face a more rigorous challenge when the men's home international series gets under way at Royal Porthcawl today.

The match against Wales today will be a new experience for seven members of the England team.

Unlike their conquerors of last year, Ireland have made minimal changes to their team. Eight remain from 1997, including the experienced Garth McGimpsey.

Malcolm Lewis, who has taken over as England captain, is optimistic about his team's chances, but Wales, who have five of their European youth team championship-winning side in their line-up, have never won the home internationals and see this as their best chance for some time.

Scotland, also with an experienced team that is probably their strongest for years, will be keen to end a 12-year run without victory.

Scotland, also with an experienced team that is probably their strongest for years, will be keen to end a 12-year run without victory.

Scotland, also with an experienced team that is probably their strongest for years, will be keen to end a 12-year run without victory.

Scotland, also with an experienced team that is probably their strongest for years, will be keen to end a 12-year run without victory.

Scotland, also with an experienced team that is probably their strongest for years, will be keen to end a 12-year run without victory.

Scotland, also with an experienced team that is probably their strongest for years, will be keen to end a 12-year run without victory.

Scotland, also with an experienced team that is probably their strongest for years, will be keen to end a 12-year run without victory.

Scotland, also with an experienced team that is probably their strongest for years, will be keen to end a 12-year run without victory.

Scotland, also with an experienced team that is probably their strongest for years, will be keen to end a 12-year run without victory.

Scotland, also with an experienced team that is probably their strongest for years, will be keen to end a 12-year run without victory.

Scotland, also with an experienced team that is probably their strongest for years, will be keen to end a 12-year run without victory.

Scotland, also with an experienced team that is probably their strongest for years, will be keen to end a 12-year run without victory.

Scotland, also with an experienced team that is probably their strongest for years, will be keen to end a 12-year run without victory.

Scotland, also with an experienced team that is probably their strongest for years, will be keen to end a 12-year run without victory.

Scotland, also with an experienced team that is probably their strongest for years, will be keen to end a 12-year run without victory.

Scotland, also with an experienced team that is probably their strongest for years, will be keen to end a 12-year run without victory.

Scotland, also with an experienced team that is probably their strongest for years, will be keen to end a 12-year run without victory.

Scotland, also with an experienced team that is probably their strongest for years, will be keen to end a 12-year run without victory.

Scotland, also with an experienced team that is probably their strongest for years, will be keen to end a 12-year run without victory.

Scotland, also with an experienced team that is probably their strongest for years, will be keen to end a 12-year run without victory.

Pleat kept his role of...

Ferguson to...

McMahon leads future in dou...

FOOTBALL

Pleat keen to prove his point in role of caretaker

By Matt Dickinson

DAVID PLEAT has been told that he will not succeed as manager of Tottenham Hotspur...

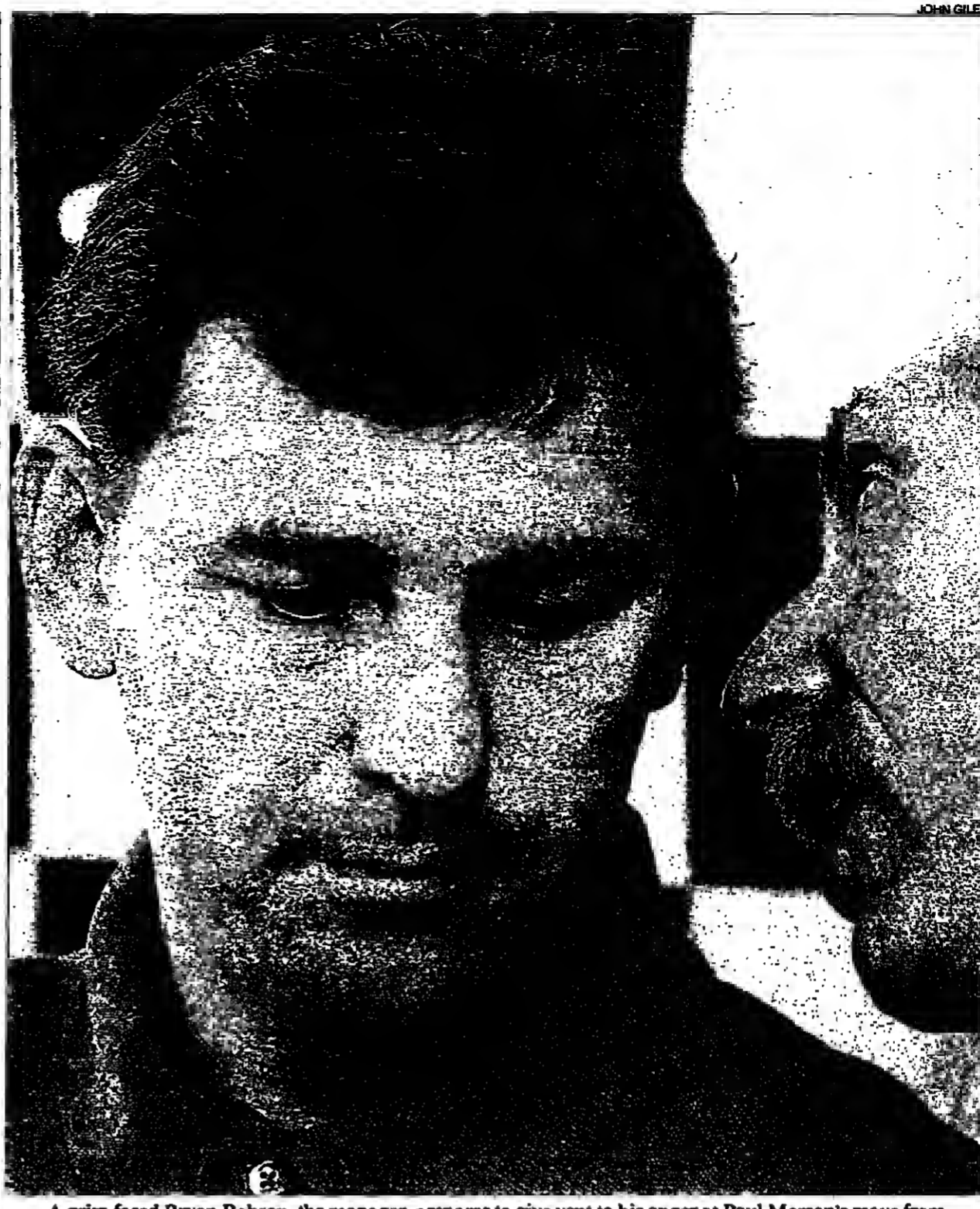
er than on the training ground and that has given Alan Sugar, the Spurs chairman...



Pleat taking charge

has distanced himself from suggestions that he could succeed Glenn Hoddle as England coach...

"It is almost impossible to survive a big tournament. Even of those who survived the World Cup, Bert Vogts is out of the German job after two games...



A grim-faced Bryan Robson, the manager, prepares to give vent to his anger at Paul Merson's move from Middlesbrough to Aston Villa at a news conference at the Riverside Stadium yesterday. Report, page 44

Gullit asks for time to reshape Newcastle squad

By Our Sports Staff

RUUD GULLIT tonight begins in earnest the task of rejuvenating Newcastle United. Gullit selects his first team for the match away to Aston Villa...

Ferguson to keep eye on the ball

By Stephen Wood

MANCHESTER United will attempt to reclaim its identity as a football club tonight. Amid the 'brouhaha' of BSKY's expected multi-million-pound takeover bid...

let their actions do the talking once again. Rumours abound about possible 'dream teams' being put together at Old Trafford following any successful takeover bid...

United have not played for two weeks because of the vagaries of the fixture computer and internationals. The break has been useful in affording Gary Neville and David Beckham holidays...

which leaves Ferguson to decide on who plays alongside him up front. Paul Scholes could get the nod over Andy Cole.

Smith hopes Wednesday bear brunt of new resolve

By Bill Edgar

DERBY County supporters accustomed to the attacking feats of last season have found little more than crumbs this time round. They have borne the brunt of the general low-key start to the FA Carling Premiership season...

Carbone ran to the touchline and demanded to be substituted after he was involved in a pushing and shouting contest with David Hirst...

home defeat by Aston Villa. Wednesday are twelfth in the fledgling table, one place ahead of Derby.



Gullit enthusiastic

Nikos Dabizas and Keith Gillespie, even though the Northern Ireland winger played for his country in Turkey at the weekend...

McMahon leaves future in doubt

By Our Sports Staff

STEVE MCMAHON, the Swindon Town manager, warned his players he could resign before the derby with Oxford United at the County Ground tonight.

friend, and Tommy Wheeldon, the youth co-ordinator, were all dismissed on Monday along with four office staff.

FOR THE RECORD

Table with columns for AMERICAN FOOTBALL, BASEBALL, BOWLS, CYCLING, and FOOTBALL, listing various sports events and results.

TENNIS

Table listing tennis matches and results, including Wimbledon and other tournaments.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Table listing football fixtures for the day, including FA Carling Premiership, League of Wales, and other leagues.

CRICKET

Table listing cricket fixtures and results, including county and international matches.

RUGBY UNION

Table listing rugby union fixtures and results, including Premier and other leagues.

OTHER SPORT

Table listing other sports fixtures and results, including speedway and horse racing.

Senior players also persuaded McMahon not to quit during a torrid end-of-season run of results last term as the club's resources.

Nicky in nine goals on his debut for Barnet at the weekend, has been rewarded by John Still, the manager, with a permanent contract at the third division club.

McMahon spent yesterday pondering his future in the wake of eight enforced redundancies at the club, including three senior members of coaching staff.

McMahon spent yesterday pondering his future in the wake of eight enforced redundancies at the club, including three senior members of coaching staff.

McMahon spent yesterday pondering his future in the wake of eight enforced redundancies at the club, including three senior members of coaching staff.

McMahon spent yesterday pondering his future in the wake of eight enforced redundancies at the club, including three senior members of coaching staff.

McMahon spent yesterday pondering his future in the wake of eight enforced redundancies at the club, including three senior members of coaching staff.

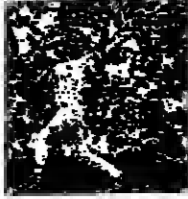


CRICKET 40
Mullally's fitness
proves worry
for Leicestershire

SPORT

BASEBALL 42

McGwire's feats
provoke outbreak
of record mania



WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 9 1998

History supports United takeover

MANCHESTER United, the club that was founded 120 years ago when the dining committee of a railway company embraced England's twin sporting passions of football and cricket by forming Newton Heath for its workers, last night completed the latest stage of its evolution when its directors accepted the £625 million takeover bid from BSkyB.

bitterness that has accompanied the news of the takeover, some United fans seem to have forgotten another the well established traditions at Old Trafford: criticising the club's owners. Supporters have made their feelings felt before, launching protracted campaigns against Martin Edwards, the chief executive, over seating arguments in Old Trafford's K Stand and the disillusion they felt over what they saw as the board's repeated blocking of transfers proposed by the manager, Alex Ferguson.



Oliver Holt, football correspondent, traces the origins and traditions of England's most renowned club

fans, will be happy as long as they feel they have an owner who, for whatever reason, shares their ambitions for their team. The previous involvement of other companies owned by Rupert Murdoch in professional sports in the United States suggest some cause for optimism.

The irony is that there is a strong element of continuity between the purchase of the club by BSkyB — whose biggest shareholder is News International, owner of *The Times* — and its early heritage when it was controlled by interests linked with dominant contemporary industry. When railway was king, the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company were its patrons. At the turn of the century, a brewer called John Henry Davies stepped in to save the club from its creditors.

1902. Its special place in the affections of the nation was woven in tragedy when many of the brilliant young team put together by then the manager, Matt Busby, were killed in an air crash at Munich airport in 1958. Duncan Edwards, the youngest player apart from Michael Owen to appear for England, was one of those who was lost.

United recovered from the disaster, though, and with Busby restored to health and a genius called George Best ripping the best continental defences to shreds with Bobby Charlton and Denis Law, they became the first English club to lift the European Cup when they beat Benfica 4-1 at Wembley in 1968.

A succession of managers, from Frank O'Farrell to Ron Atkinson have tried and failed to emulate that achievement and it has only been under the last decade of stewardship from Ferguson that they have come close to dominating the best of the rest in Europe again. Much of Ferguson's success has been achieved by his unparalleled cultivation of a successful youth system that has spawned home-grown players of the calibre of Ryan Giggs and David Beckham.

Clubs start war of words over sale of Merson

By GEORGE CAULKIN AND RUSSELL KEMPSON

AS PAUL MERSON smiled sweetly for the cameras and mouthed the usual platitudes about new beginnings after completing the formalities of his £6.75 million transfer to Aston Villa yesterday, his former club, Middlesbrough, were saying a few words of their own. Like "nonsense", "slur", "libel" and "lies".

repeated insinuations about the off-field habits of Robson's players and his slant on the events that led to his quickfire sale. Vitriol was not spared. "The fans, the club, his friends, the players, everybody connected with Middlesbrough has been let down by Paul Merson," Lamb said. "He knew the way this club had been treated by other international players and when he came here he said he would never treat us the way the others had. That's what he's done."

have built a new stadium, a new training ground and Bryan has spent more than £50 million on new players, all in the last few years. To say that his fellow players are drinkers and gamblers is a total nonsense, a slur and a libel, but I've got better things to do with my time than sue the likes of Paul Merson.



Paul Merson displays his new shirt after finalising his transfer from Middlesbrough to Aston Villa for a fee of £6.75 million

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-24. The grid is a standard crossword format with black squares indicating non-letter positions.

No 1506

- ACROSS: 1 Start to grow (6); 5 Suit turn into (6); 8 Run away; roll of cloth (4); 9 About to happen (8); 10 Loss of hope (7); 11 Throb, beat (5); 13 Travel widely (8,3,5); 16 Eur. royal house once some Operas (5); 18 Thoughtful (7); 21 Rudimentary (8); 22 His wife a countess (4); 23 Ski obstacle race (6); 24 Israeli money (6)
- DOWN: 2 Skill, daring (7); 3 Available whenever wanted (2,3); 4 Gloaming (8); 5 Jolt; exclude from plane flight (4); 6 Defeat (7); 7 Take-away (sign) (5); 12 Splinter-removing implement (8); 14 Marking an era (7); 15 Of many different types (7); 17 Make void (5); 19 One from Uppsala (5); 20 Windless (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1505
ACROSS: 1 Logo 3 Teenager 9 Fresh 10 Flamingo
11 Lincoln 12 Born 14 Kaolin 16 Dahlia 18 Oslo
19 Picasso 22 Baggage 23 Opine 24 Eastern 25 Oops
DOWN: 1 Lifelike 2 Greenhouse gas 4 Expend
5 Namibia 6 Generalissimo 7 Rook 8 Shoo 13 Baroness
15 Iron Age 17 Appeal 20 Chip 21 Oboe

THE TIMES BOOKSHOP
NEW TIMES CROSSWORD TITLES NOW AVAILABLE
The Times Two Crosswords (Book 7-2009), The Times Crosswords (Book 20 Crosswords), The Times Jumble Crosswords (Book 2) is available in Times readers for just 14p (99p) while supplies last from The Times Bookshop.

but instead of making me happy, they sold me." Merson admitted that his unhappiness was related to his past addictions. "Yes, of course," he said. "It was getting hard at Boro. It was getting hard. It's been up and down for me over the past 12 months. It's been a rollercoaster year. It's been building up steadily and what I need is stability."

Tame exit for Kournikova

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT IN NEW YORK

THE first and last grand-slam tournaments of the season dispensed very different experiences for Anna Kournikova, the Russian-born pin-up who, at 17, has already earned more than the average Premiership footballer over his whole career. Although she progressed further than at the Australian Open in January, there was something almost anonymous about her fourth-round exit from the US Open late on Monday night.

Kournikova, seeded No 15, was beaten rather tamely by Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario, seeded No 4. No surprise in that — except that Kournikova had never lost to the Spaniard in three previous matches. She rallied from a 5-3 deficit to force a first-set tie-break but was well beaten when Sanchez-Vicario struck the winning blow to triumph 7-6, 6-3.

So the golden girl was gone. Kournikova came and went quietly, quite unlike her fanfaired appearance at the Australian Open seven months ago. On that occasion Kournikova was everywhere, she was even photographed in Sydney with the Spice Girls. And on the court, she tussled hard with Martina Hingis, who would successfully defend her title, in the match of the entire championships. There have been no such fringe activities at Flushing Meadows. It was Sanchez-Vicario who stole the show.

Kournikova has just endured her first divorce from the International Management Group (IMG), which signed her up when she was 12. It was IMG who orchestrated those very public appearances but Kournikova has now changed her tune because ... she wants to concentrate on her tennis. Did she know that she was on the cover of the Russian magazine, Sport Express?

him and he knows that." Merson said. "There are plenty of other problems. I went much deeper than that. All this blaming of the Boro players has got out of hand. I know them and I don't want to get involved in slagging off people."

Merson paid tribute to Robson and Middlesbrough. "I can't talk too highly about Bryan," he said. "I was part of the team that got promoted. I did the business for them. And my conscience is clear."

Gregory deflected any doubting of Merson's motives, saying that had made the first move by contacting Robson. "I instigated it all," he said. "It was down to me, not Paul. A lot of people wrote him off when he left Arsenal but he's playing as well as ever now."

In a humorous conclusion, Gregory made reference to the recent antics of Mark Bosnich, the Villa goalkeeper, and Dwight Yorke, the former Villa striker, whose bedroom frolics were captured on film and published in a national newspaper. "We've got one or two players who like dressing up in women's clothing and having their bottoms spanked," Gregory said. "Paul should fit in quite nicely here."

Gullit's pledge, page 41

Finally, you can expect superb sound wherever you are.
The Bose Acoustic Wave® music system, the only thing that's limited is its availability.

Bose introduces an easier, more convenient way to enjoy superb sound. Small and light, the Acoustic Wave® music system is a complete sound system. With two equalizers, three amplifiers, three speakers, an AM/FM stereo tuner, CD player and a credit card-sized remote control. Bose's patented Acoustic Waveguide speaker technology delivers big, rich, lifelike sound. There are no cables to connect. No dials to adjust. Just plug it in and start enjoying it. Not found in any shops, this system is available only direct from Bose. For a free information pack, simply call freephone or send/fax the coupon below. Or to try it in your home for 14 days, satisfaction guaranteed, call:

0800 022 044

When calling, please quote the reference number in the coupon below.

Please send me more information about the Acoustic Wave music system and the 14-day, satisfaction-guaranteed audition. Ref: 5303

Name _____
Tel. _____
Address _____
Postcode _____

Please return in an envelope to: Bose, Freephone TX 1020, Ticknasham, Middlesbrough TS2 2UN. No stamp necessary. Or fax to: 0181 410 9411.

BOSE
Better sound through science.

Party...
Labour
to...
his exp...
Welfare refo...
Cash...
cance...